



ONE OF THE

# X-FILES

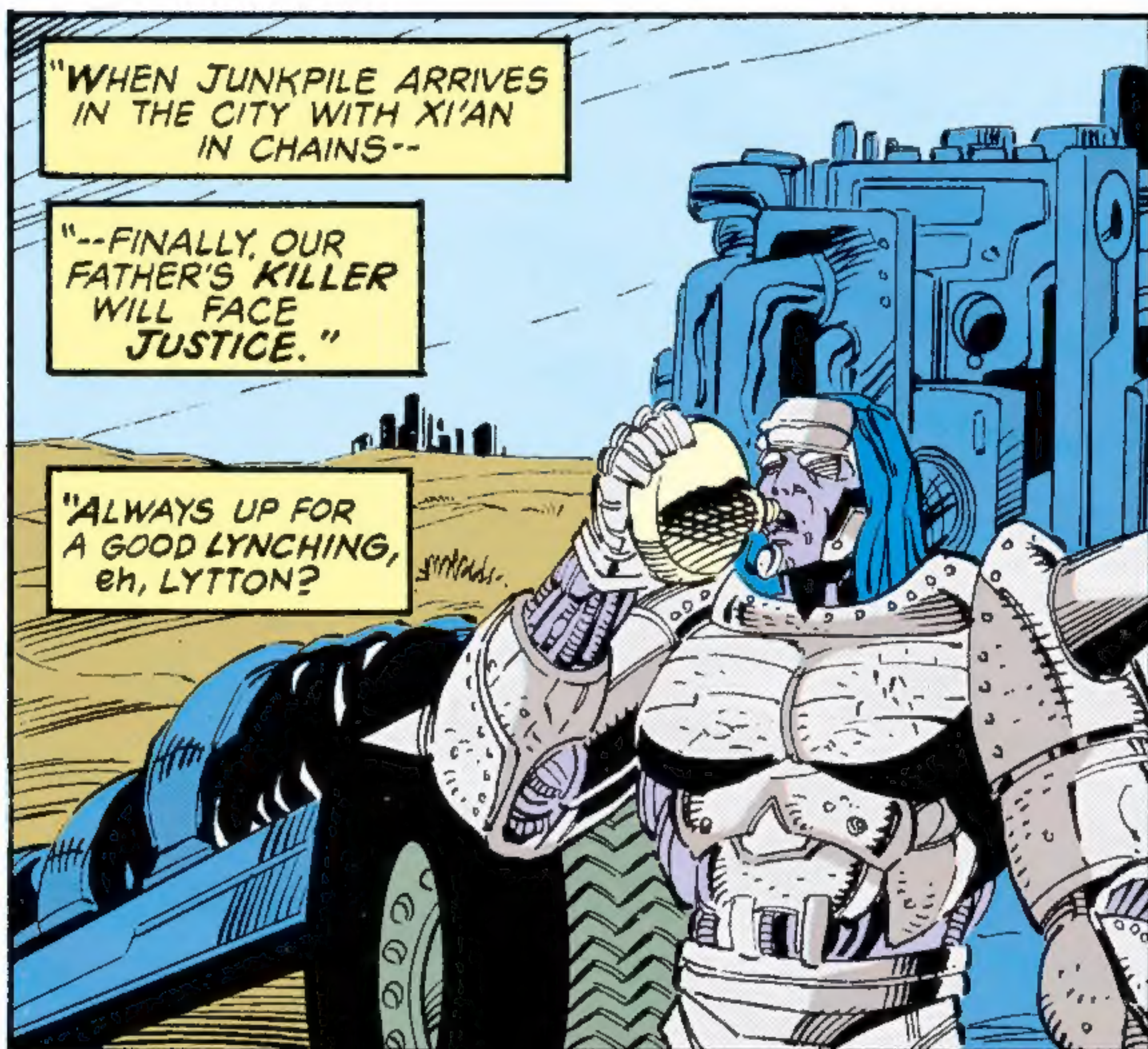
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APPROVED  
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COMICS  
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AUTHORITY

# WILL DIE!



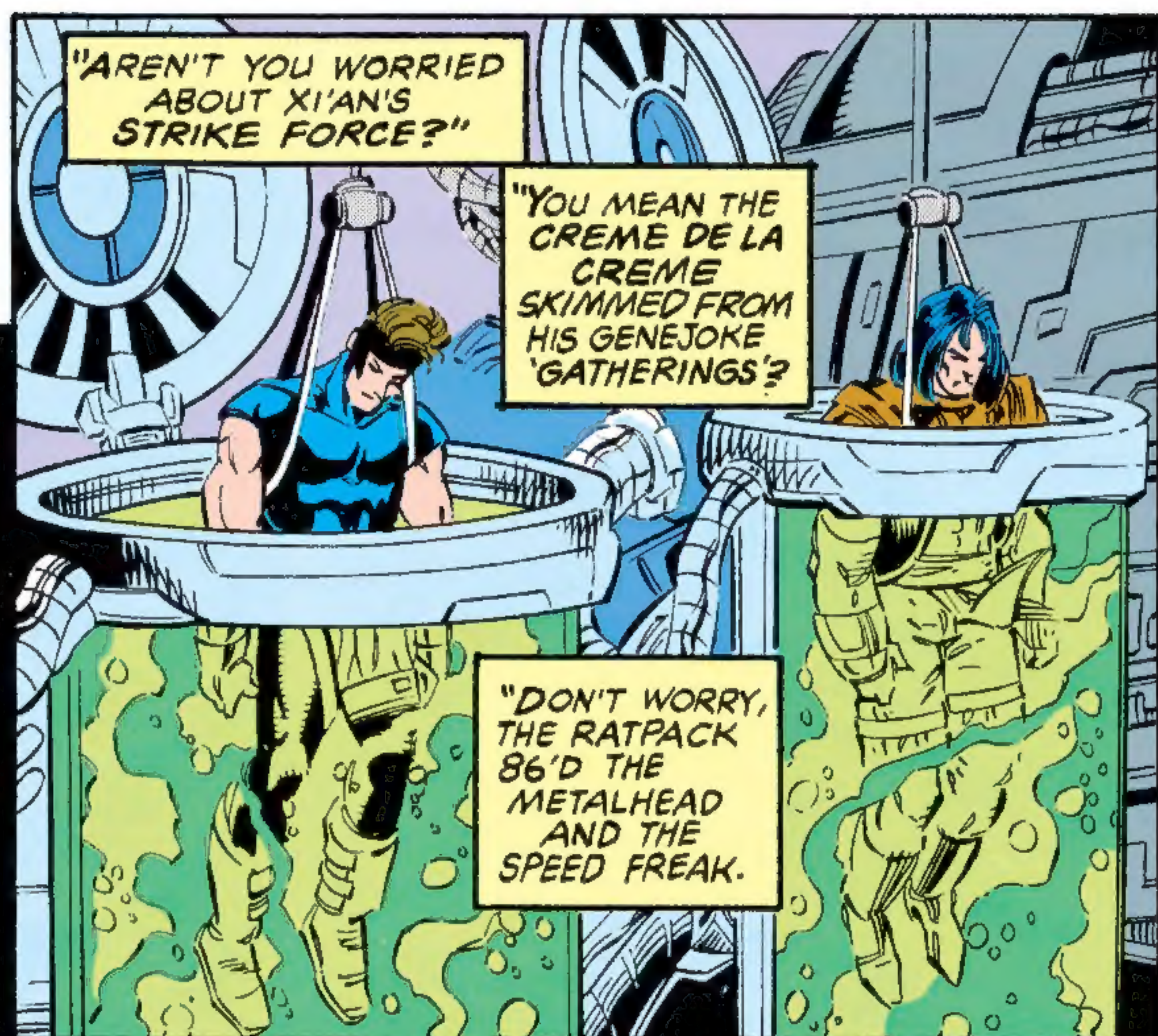




"WHEN JUNKPILE ARRIVES  
IN THE CITY WITH XI'AN  
IN CHAINS--

"--FINALLY, OUR  
FATHER'S KILLER  
WILL FACE  
JUSTICE."

"ALWAYS UP FOR  
A GOOD LYNCHING,  
EH, LYTTON?"



"AREN'T YOU WORRIED  
ABOUT XI'AN'S  
STRIKE FORCE?"

"YOU MEAN THE  
CREME DE LA  
CREME  
SKIMMED FROM  
HIS GENEJOKE  
'GATHERINGS'?"

"DON'T WORRY,  
THE RATPACK  
86'D THE  
METALHEAD  
AND THE  
SPEED FREAK."



"BUT THE WOMAN--KRYSTALIN-- ESCAPED."

"SHE'S STILL IN THE HOTEL.  
JUST A MATTER OF TIME  
BEFORE WE FIND HER."

"THAT'S ONLY  
THREE,  
BROTHER."



"I LEFT THE OTHERS TO JUNKPILE'S TENDER  
MERCIES. IF SOMEHOW THEY SURVIVED--

"--WITHOUT XI'AN TO LEAD THEM,  
THEY ARE OF NO CONSEQUENCE."



"IF ONLY I COULD  
ELIMINATE THAT  
WINGED MONSTROSITY  
BLOODHAWK AS EASILY."

"HE FIREBOMBED  
ANOTHER GARBAGE  
CONVOY CARRYING  
TOXICS TO OUR  
DESERT DUMPSITE."

"YOUR OH-SO-RIGHTEOUS  
CRUSADE AGAINST MUTANTS  
IS WEARING THIN, LYTTON."



IF YOU KILL THEM ALL  
NOW, WHO'LL SERVE AS  
SCAPEGOAT FOR YOUR  
NEXT COUP D'ETAT?"

DON'T START, DES,  
JUST GO BACK TO YOUR  
NOUVEAU-GOTHIC LEECHES  
YOU CALL FRIENDS."

THE BUSINESS  
IS MINE--THE CASINO,  
THE HOTEL, AND-- SOON--  
THE ENTIRE SYNDICATE--



# Viva Las Vegas

"--AND I'M NOT GOING TO LET ANYTHING GET IN THE WAY OF MY RIGHTFUL INHERITANCE."

SOMEBODY CALL SYNGE!

WE HAVE A SITUATION ON THE STRIP!

BLOODHAWK'S RETURNED!

KRASH!

KEN LOPEZ  
AND  
JON BABCOCK  
LETTERERS

TOM  
SMITH  
COLORIST

JOEY  
CAVALIERI  
EDITOR

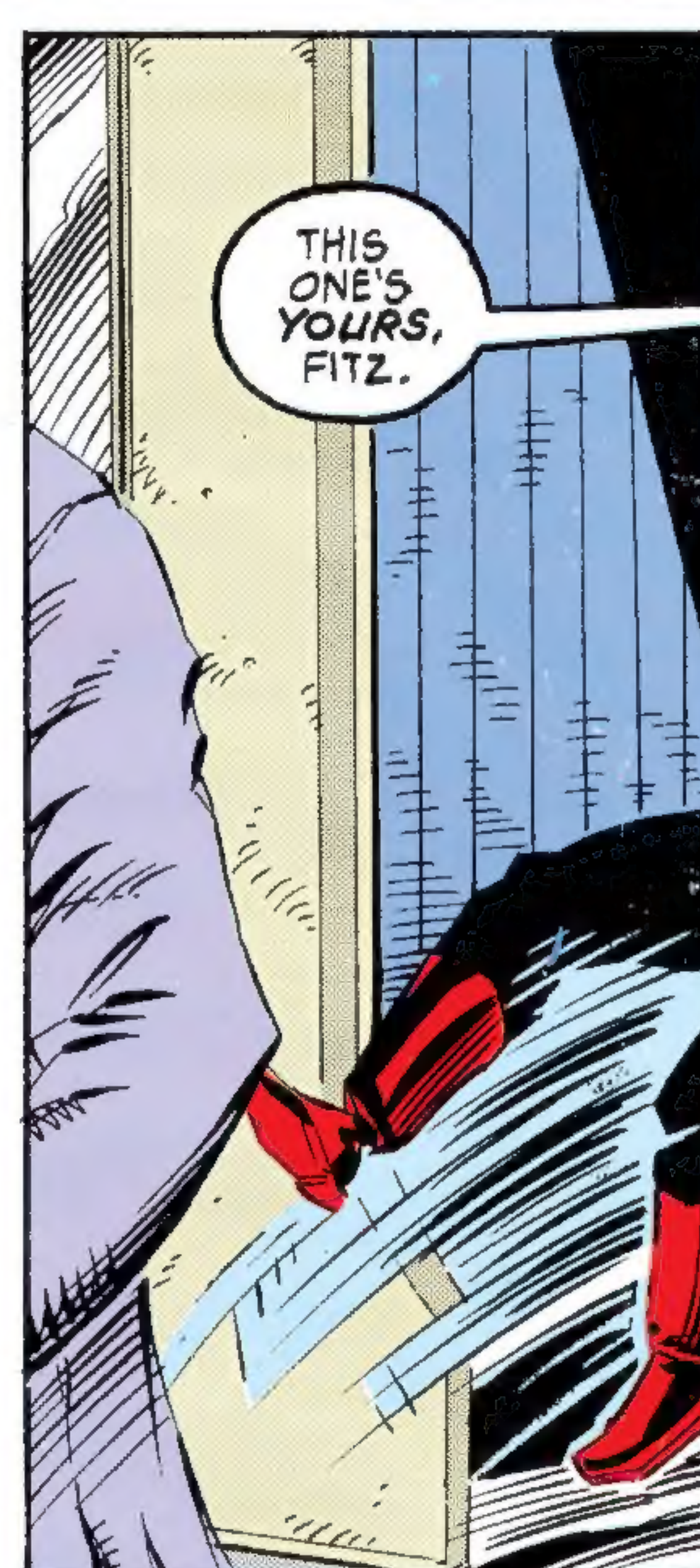
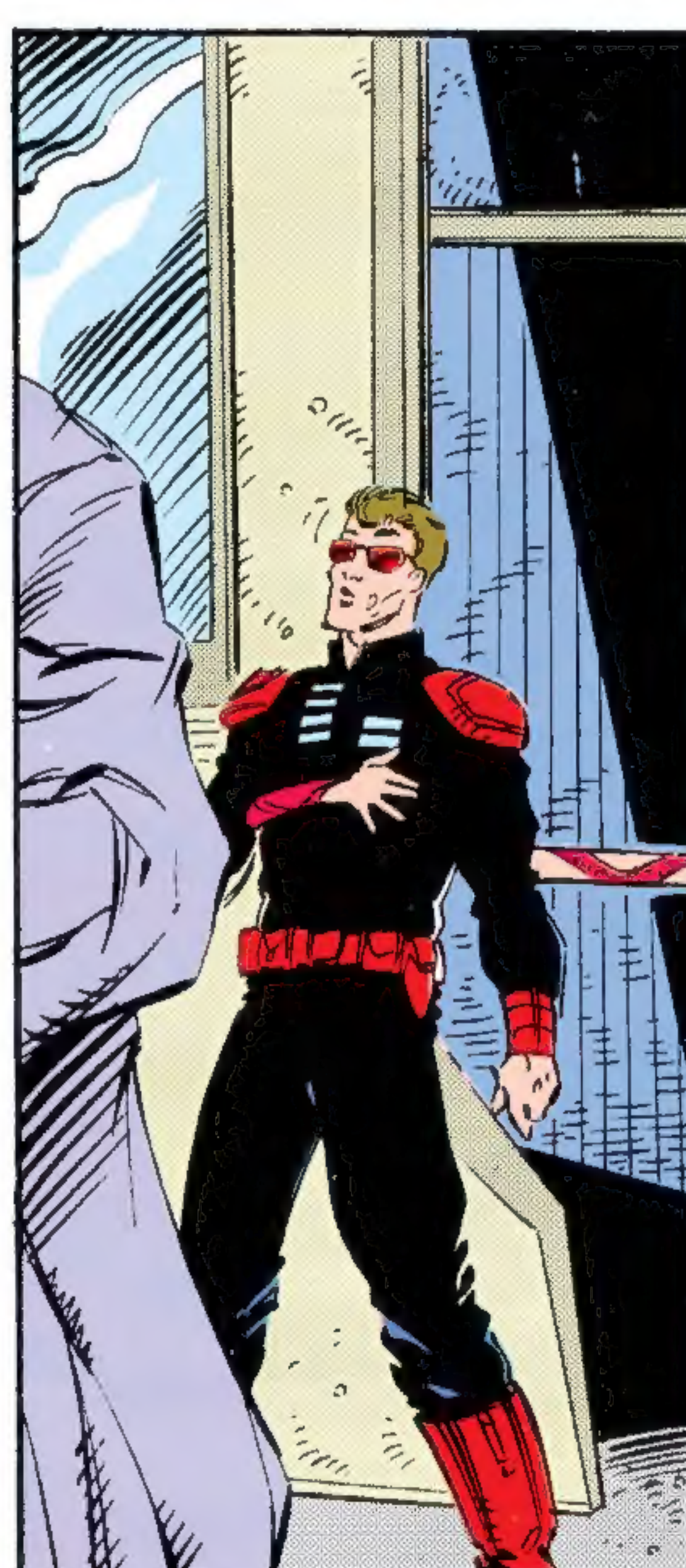
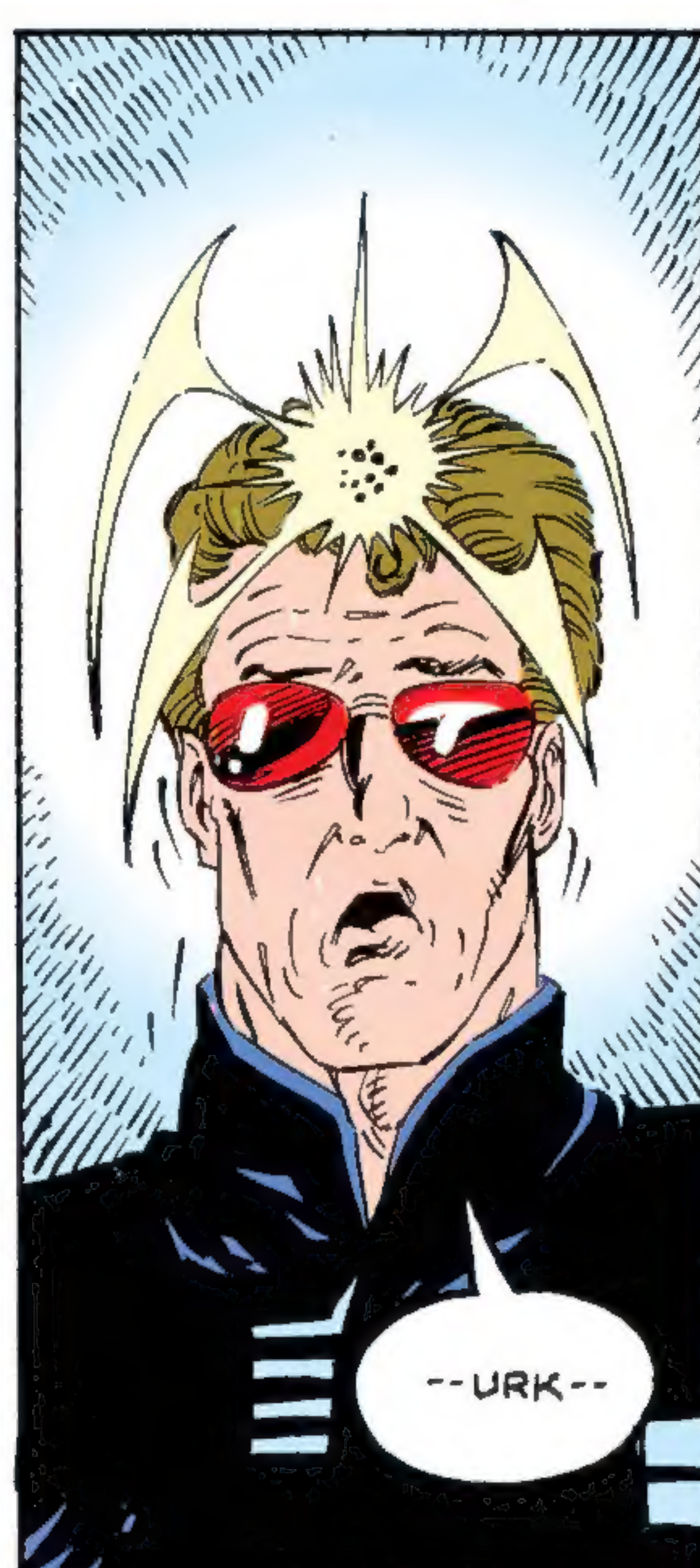
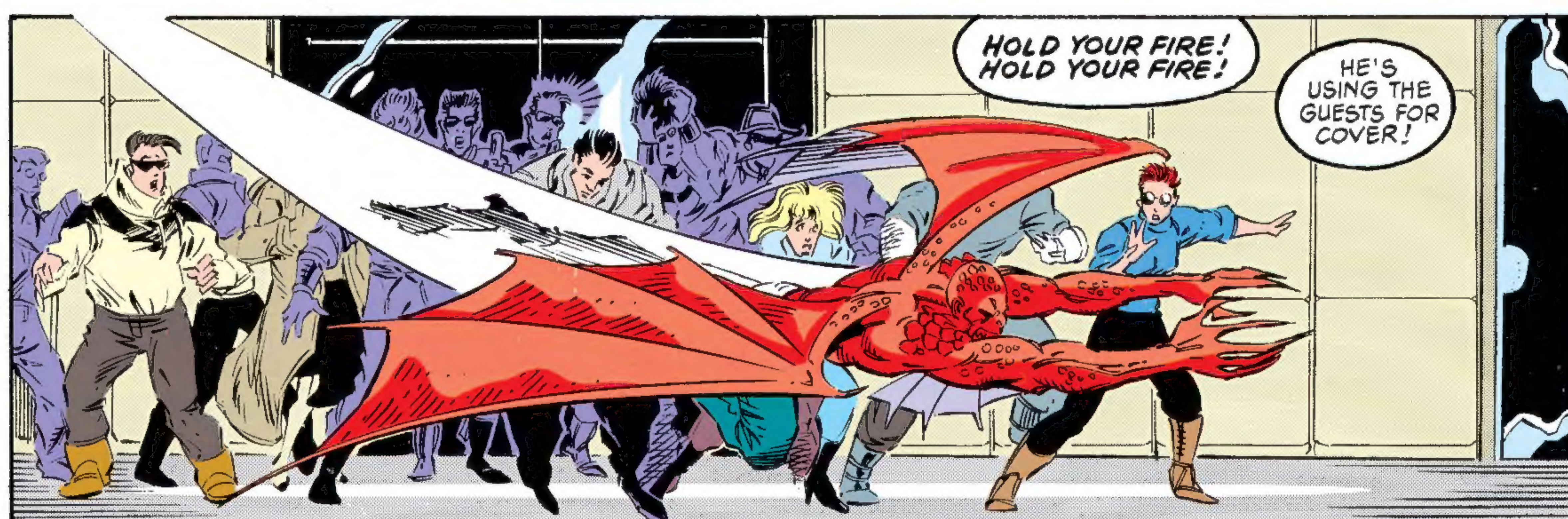
TOM  
DEFALCO  
CHIEF

JOHN  
FRANCIS  
MOORE  
WRITER

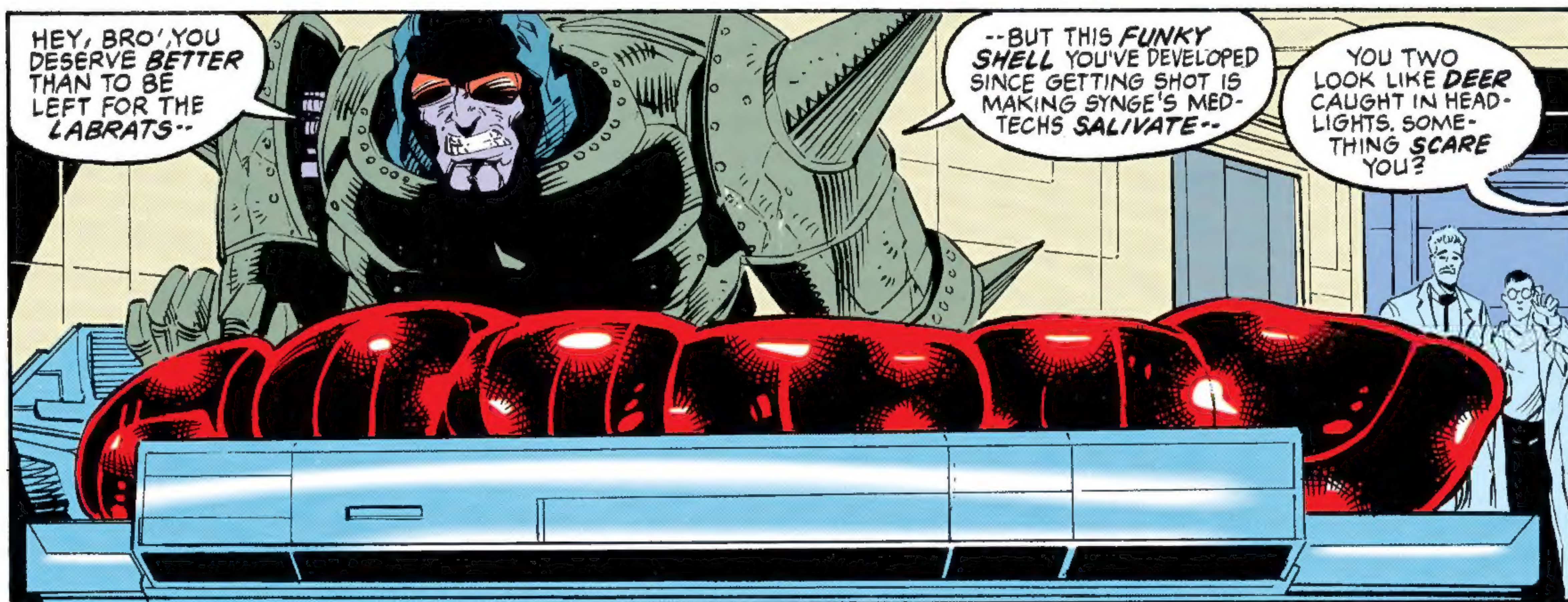
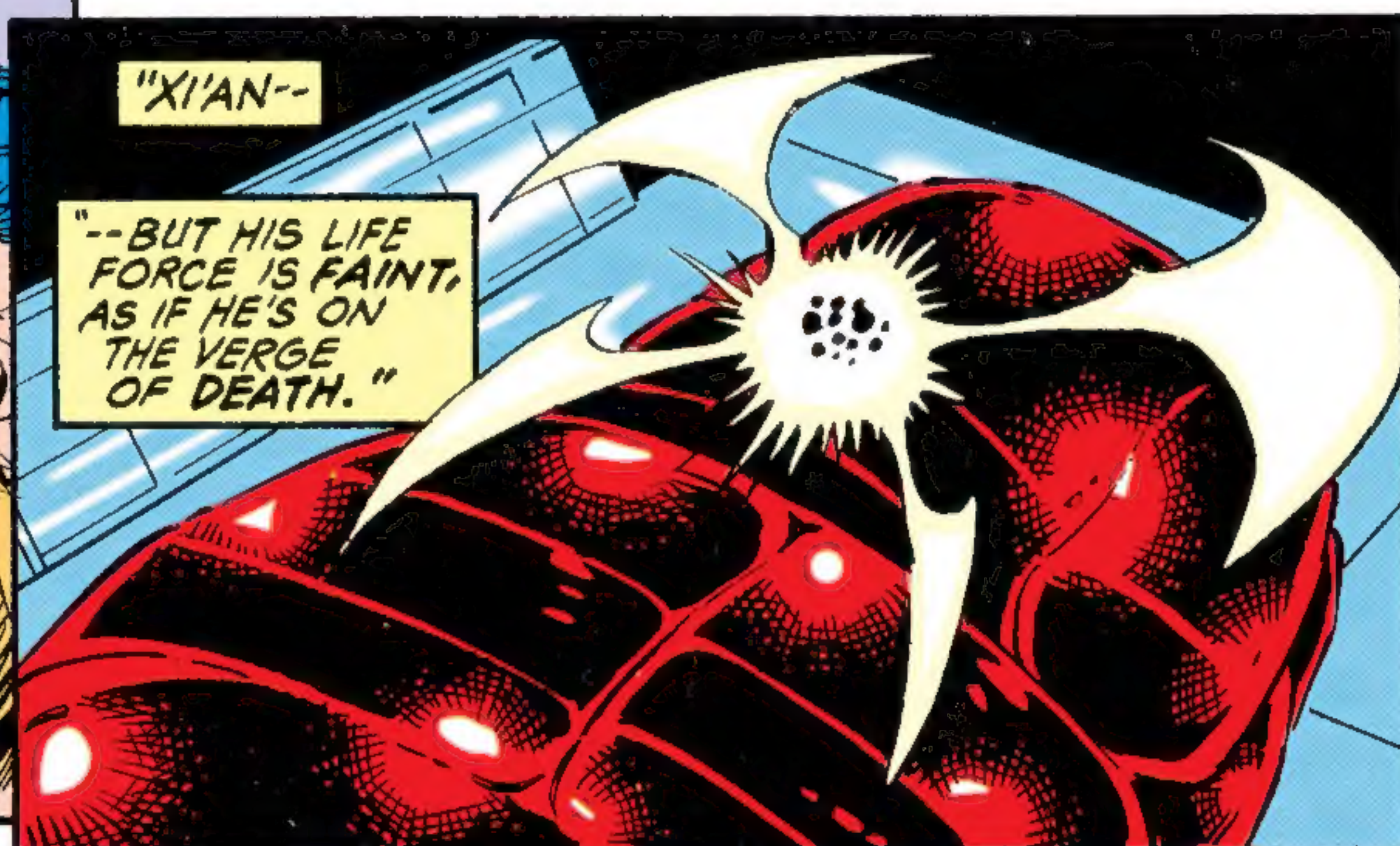
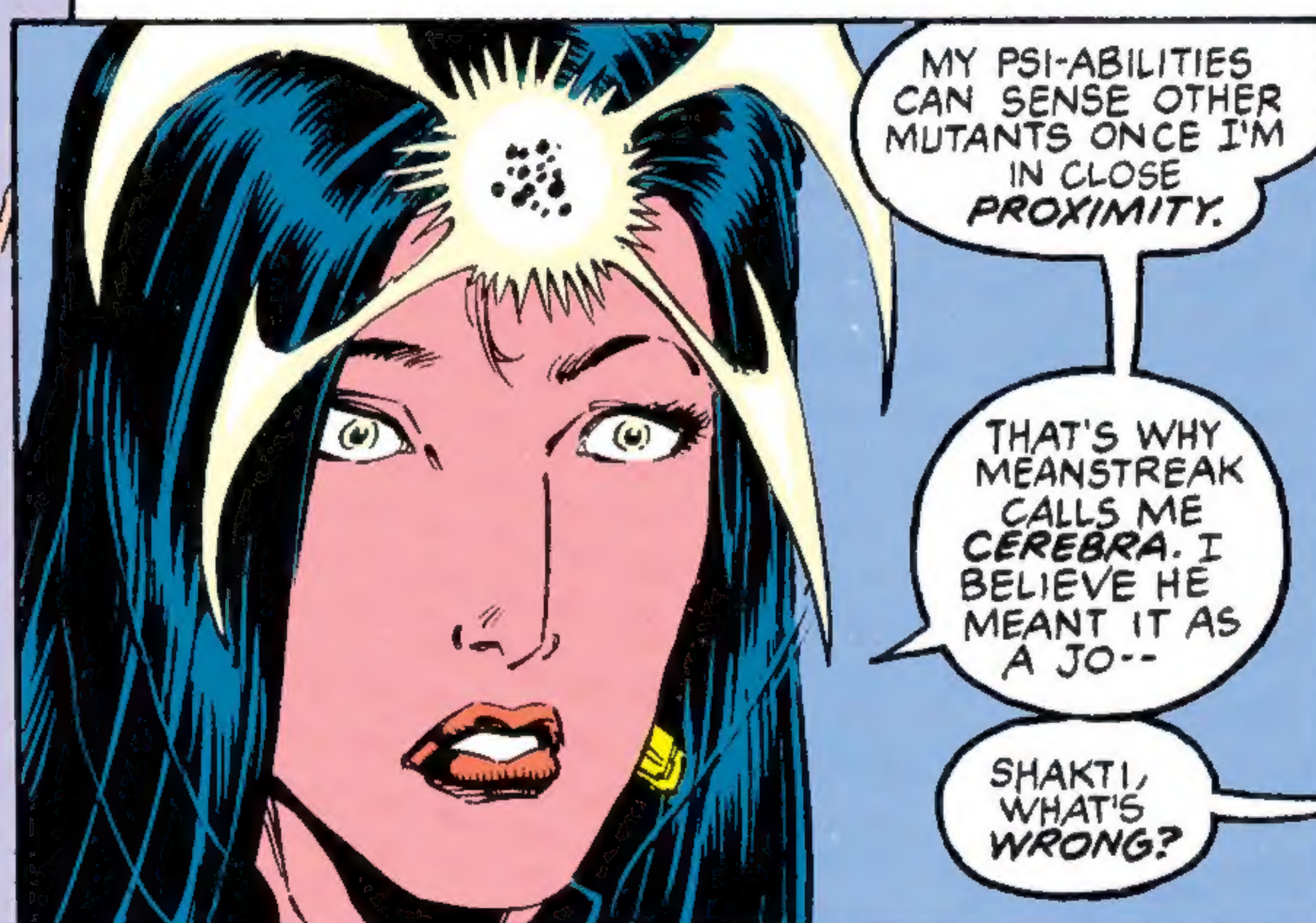
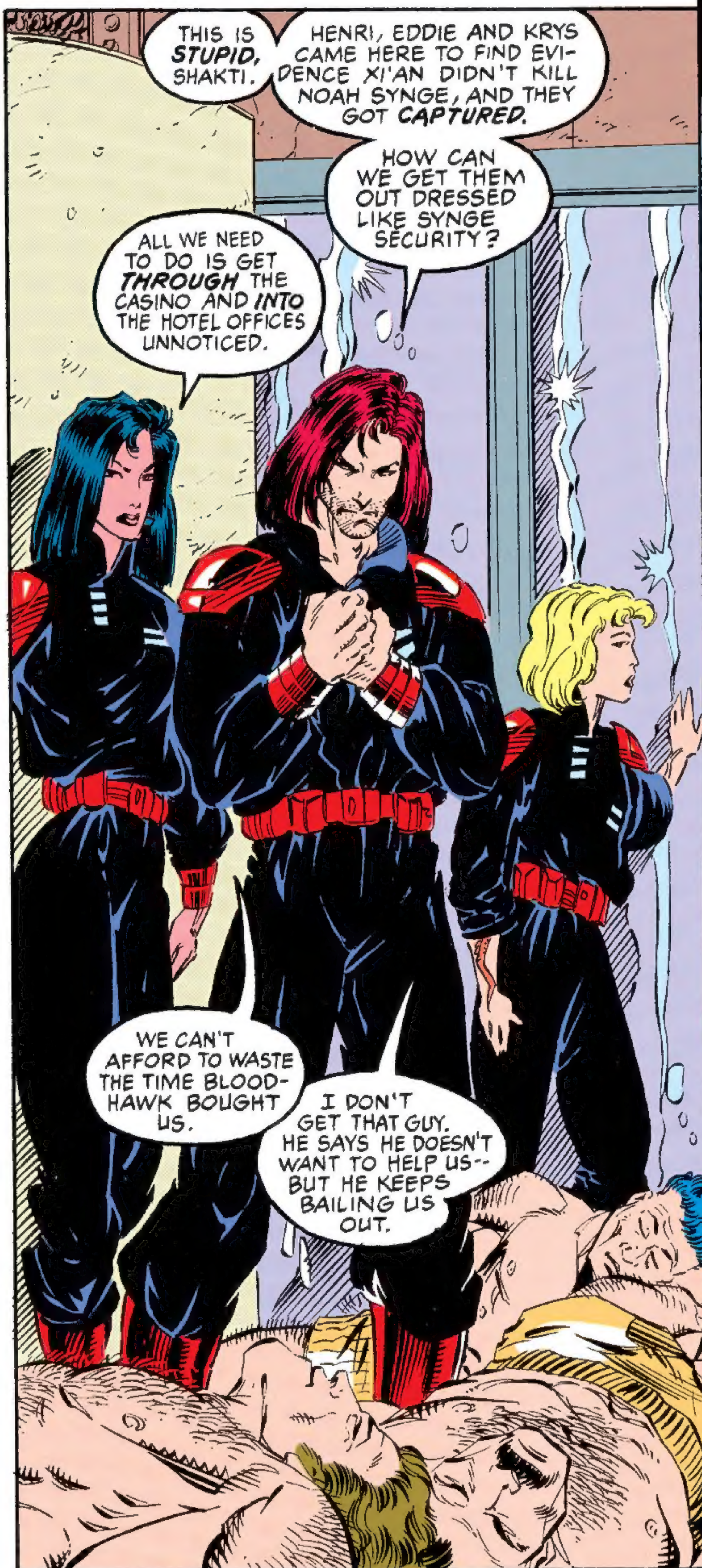
RON LIM  
PENCILER

ADAM KUBERT, CHRIS IVY, JIM SANDERS III, CAM SMITH & GARY MARTIN  
INKERS ALL, TRIED AND TRUE

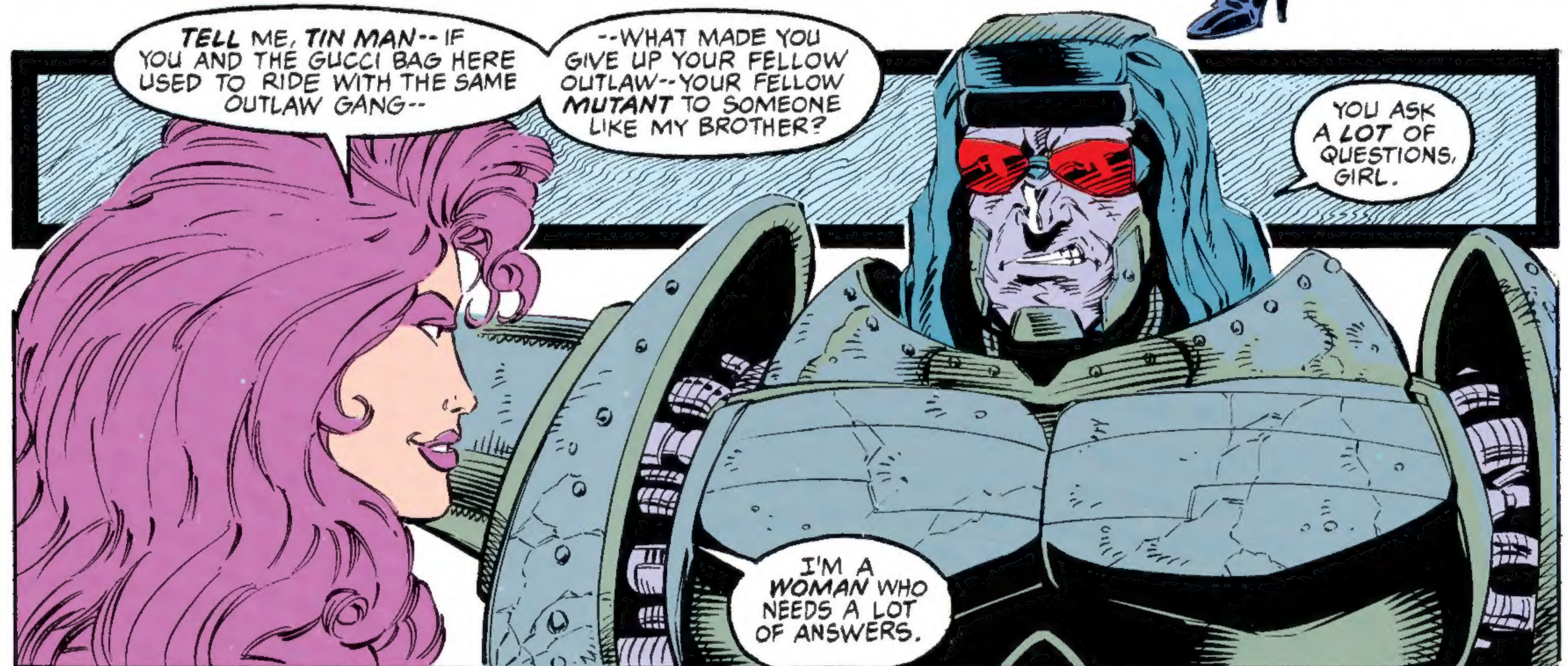
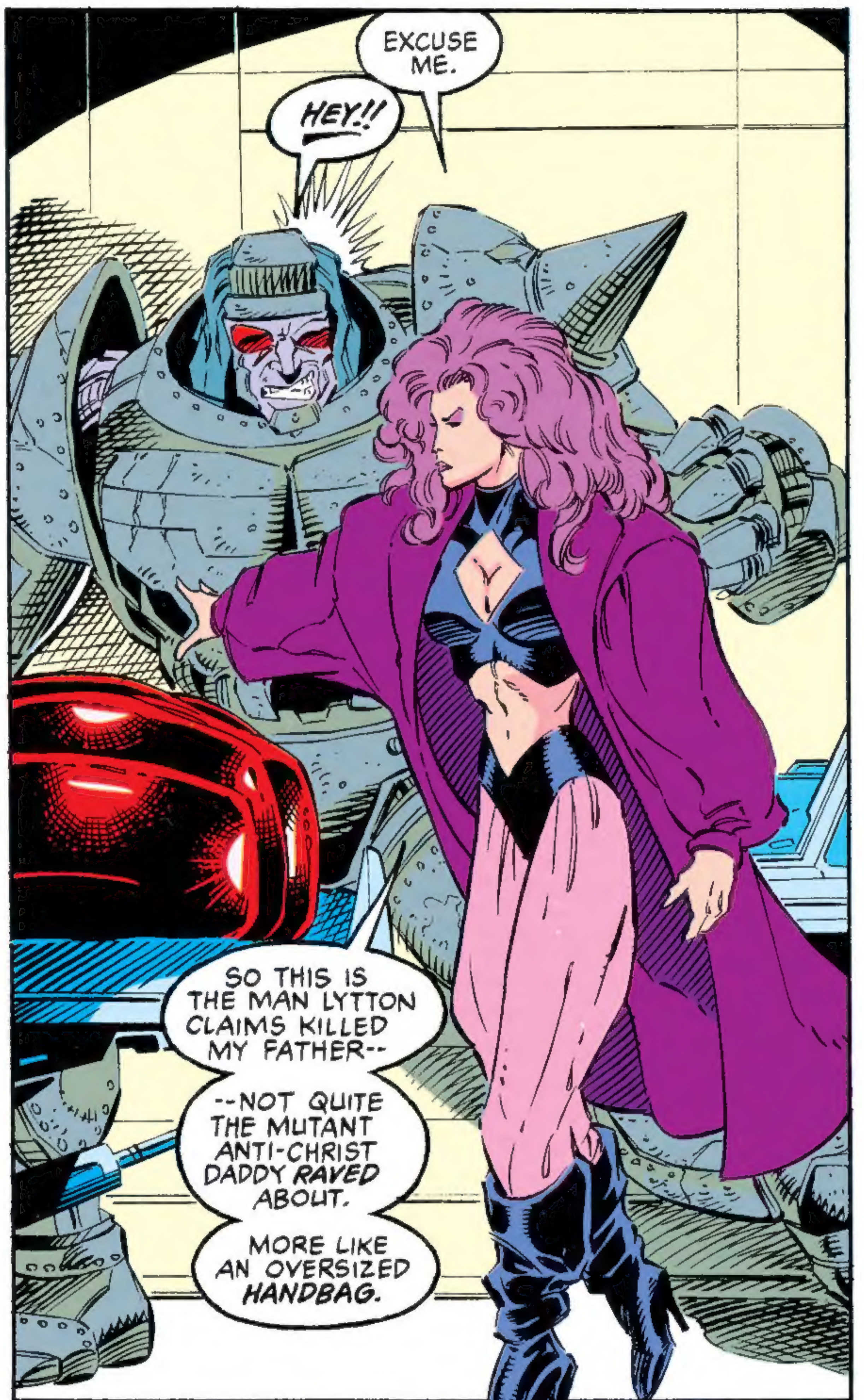
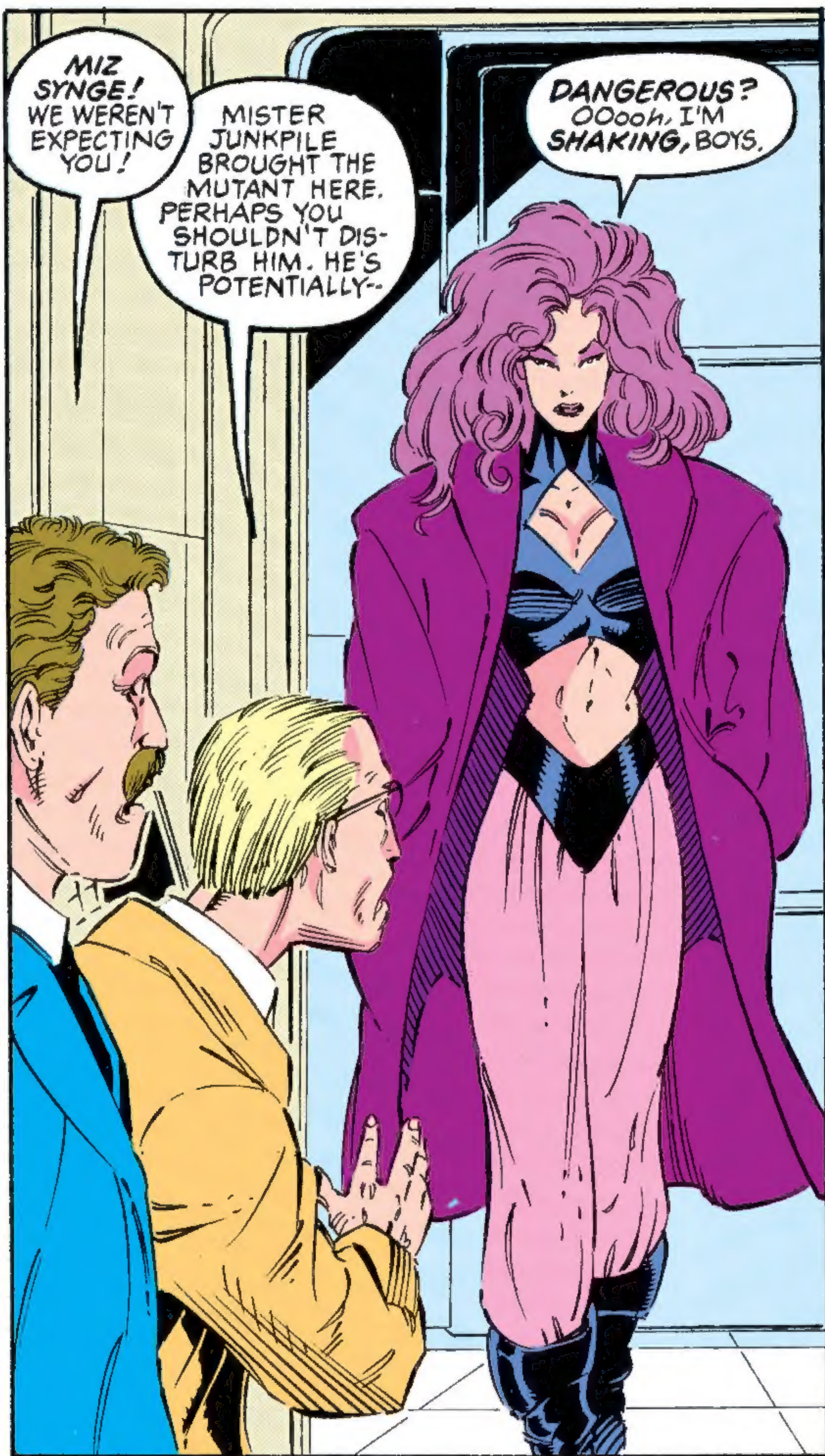




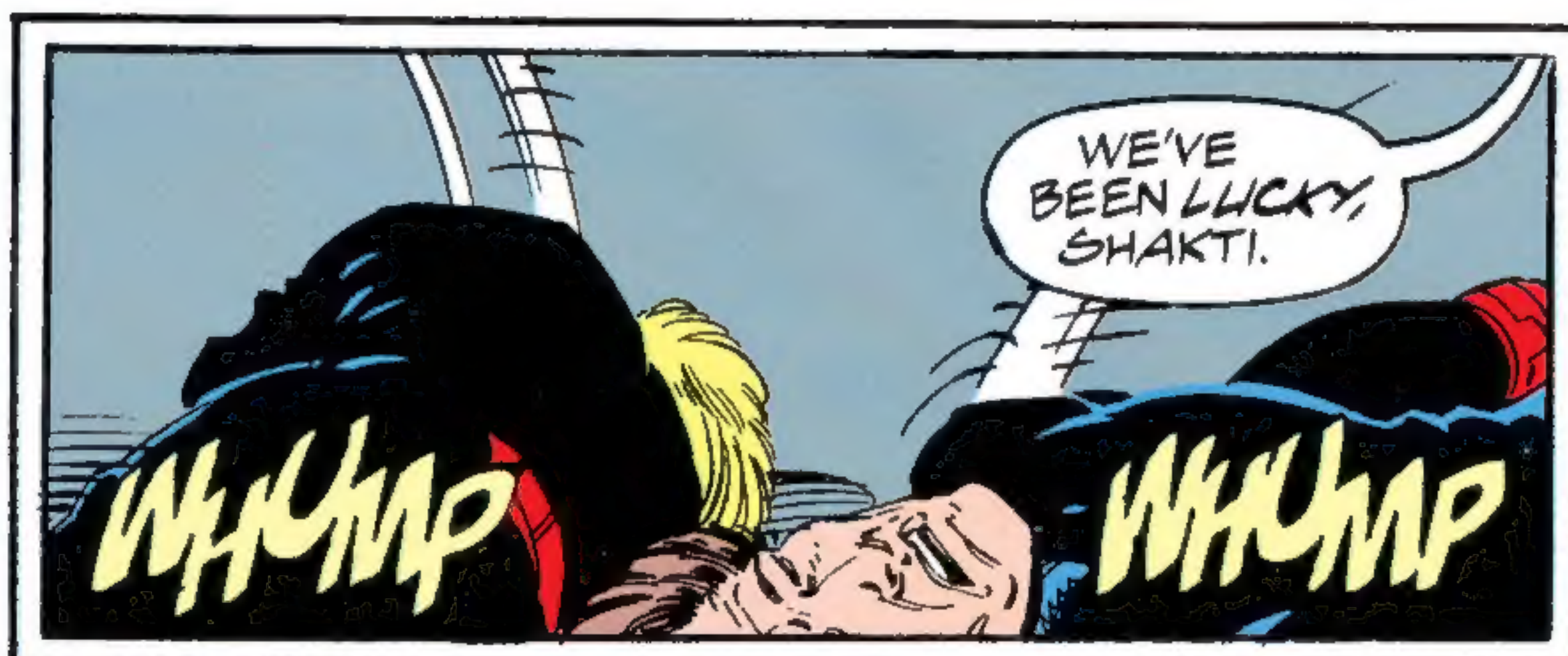












WE'VE  
BEEN LUCKY,  
SHAKTI.

A FEW GRUNTS.  
A FEW MEDTECHS.  
NO REAL THREATS.

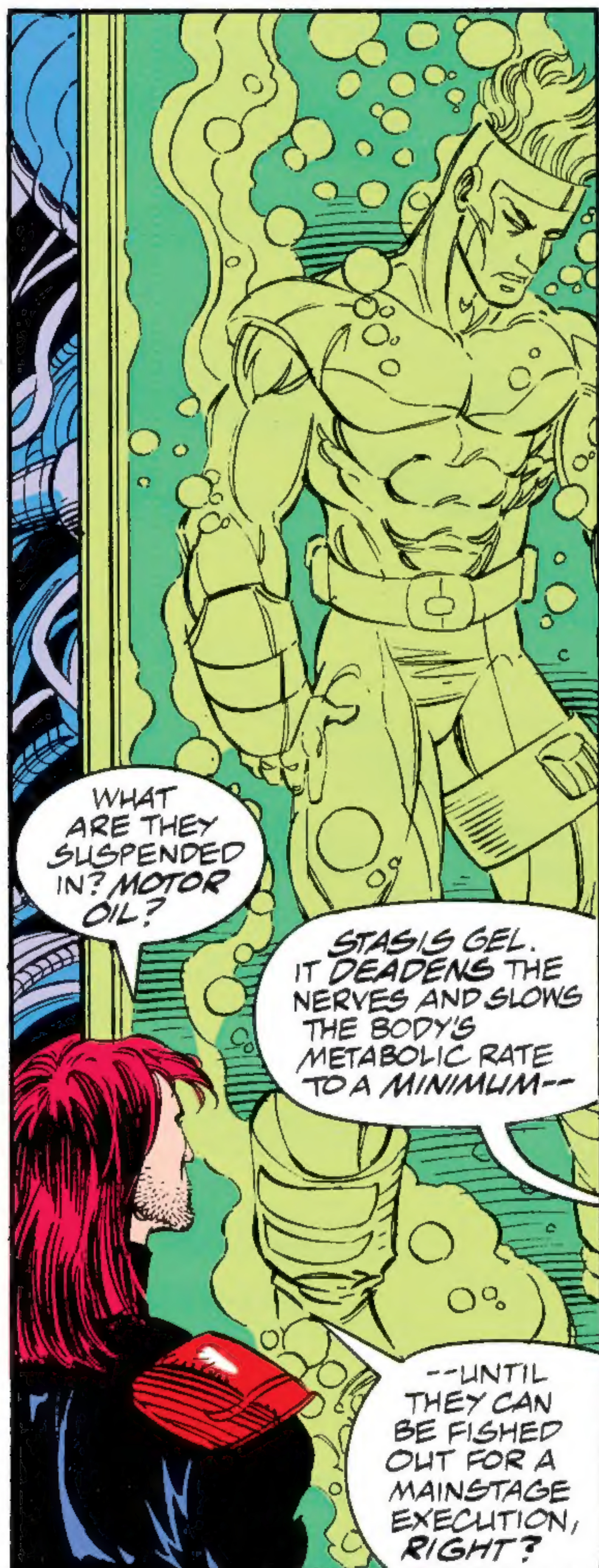
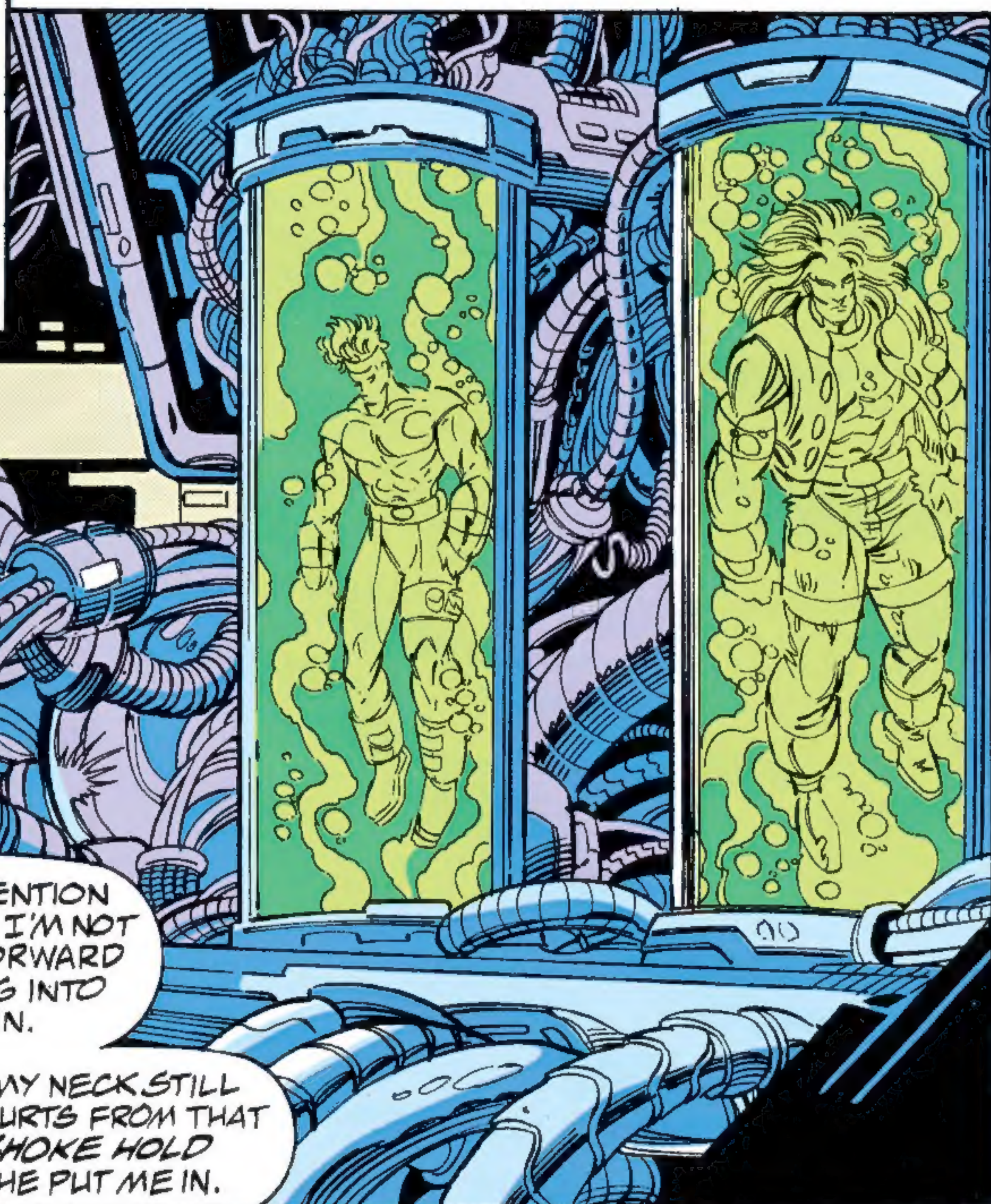
BUT WE HAVEN'T  
SEEN ANY OF  
SYNGE'S BIG  
GUNS YET.

ONCE WE FREE HENRI  
AND EDDIE, WE'LL BE  
BETTER PREPARED TO  
DEAL WITH SYNGE'S  
ENFORCERS.

XI'AN IS  
SURE TO BE  
UNDER HEAVY  
GUARD.

NOT TO MENTION  
JUNKPILE. I'M NOT  
LOOKING FORWARD  
TO RUNNING INTO  
HIM AGAIN.

MY NECK STILL  
HURTS FROM THAT  
CHOKE HOLD  
HE PUT ME IN.



WHAT  
ARE THEY  
SUSPENDED  
IN? MOTOR  
OIL?

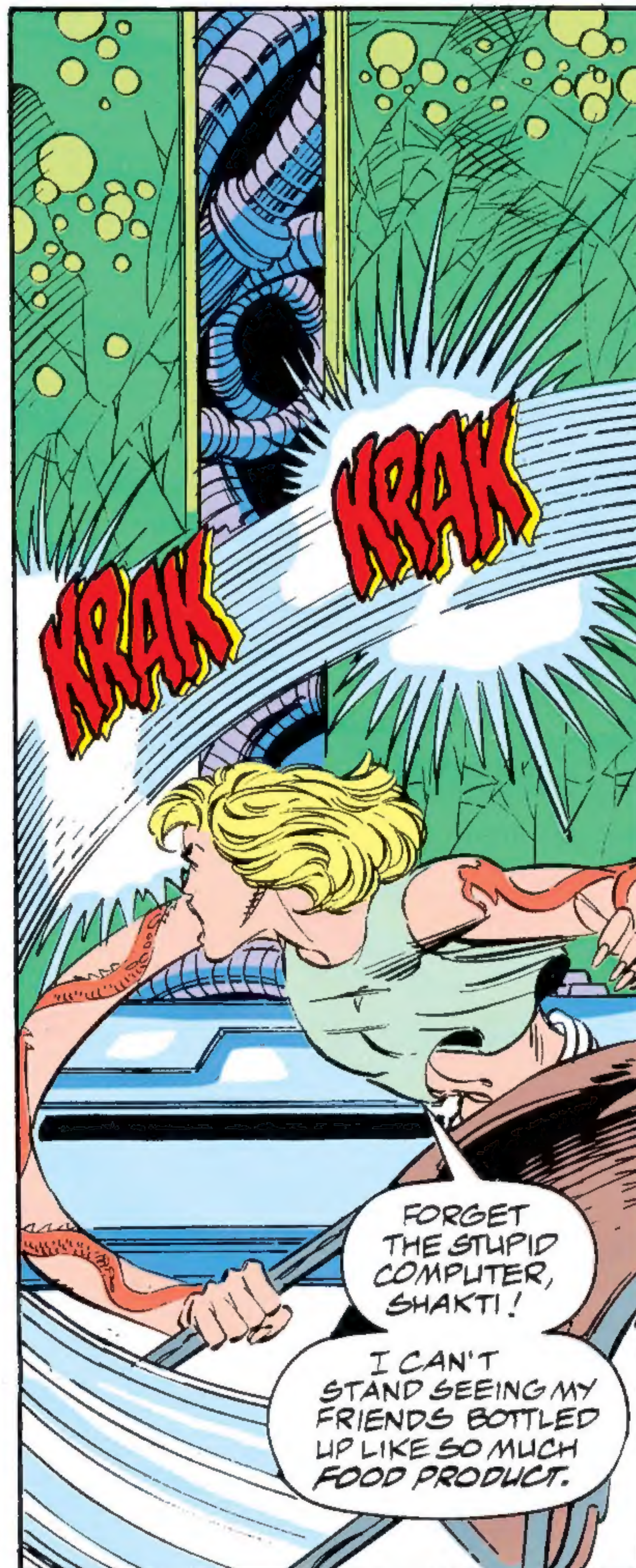
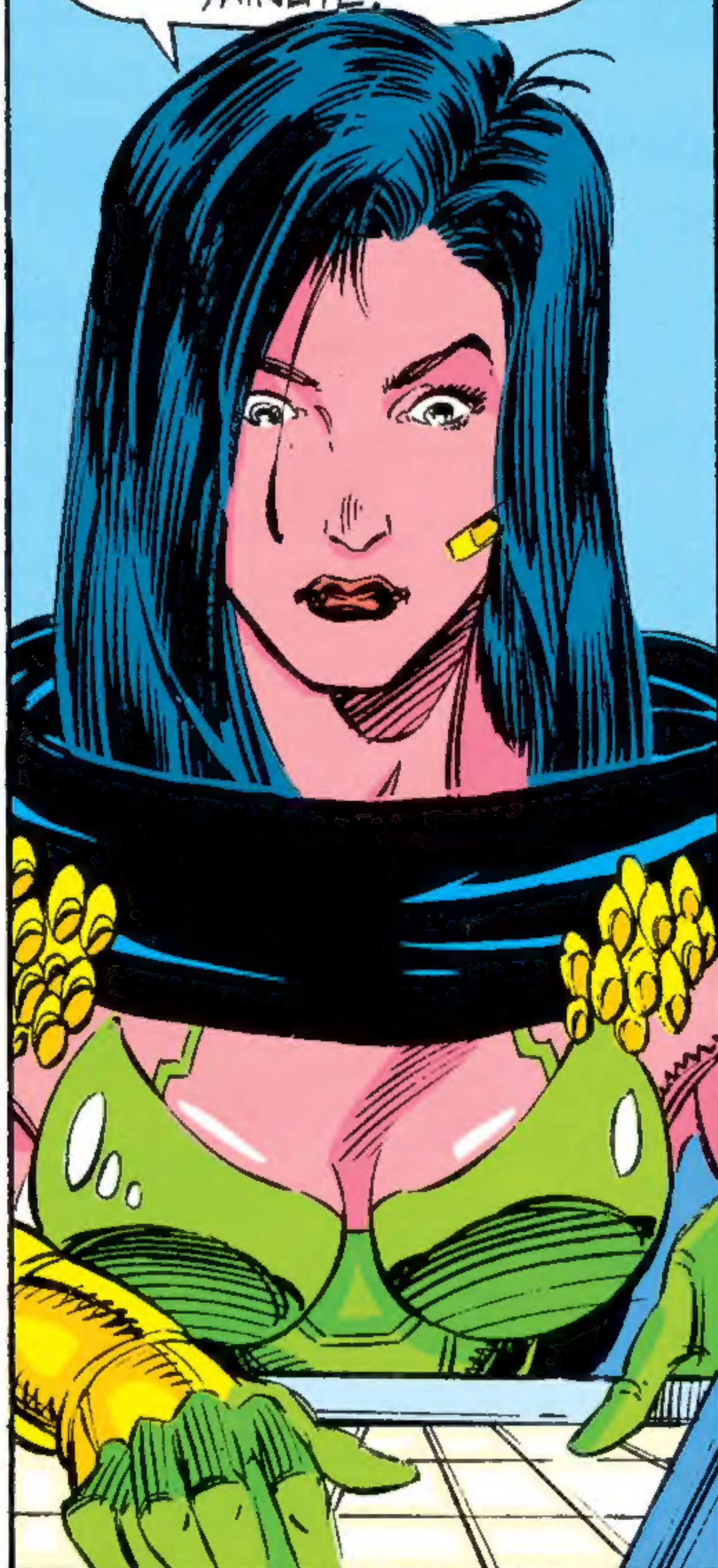
STASIS GEL.  
IT DEADENS THE  
NERVES AND SLOWS  
THE BODY'S  
METABOLIC RATE  
TO A MINIMUM--

--UNTIL  
THEY CAN  
BE FISHED  
OUT FOR A  
MAINSTAGE  
EXECUTION,  
RIGHT?

NOT THIS TIME. ACCORDING  
TO THE COMPUTER, LYTTON  
AUTHORIZED THEIR TRANSFER  
TO AN ALCHEMAX BIOSHOP.

HOWEVER, THAT LAB WILL  
HAVE TO DO WITHOUT TWO  
NEW MUTANT GUINEA PIGS.

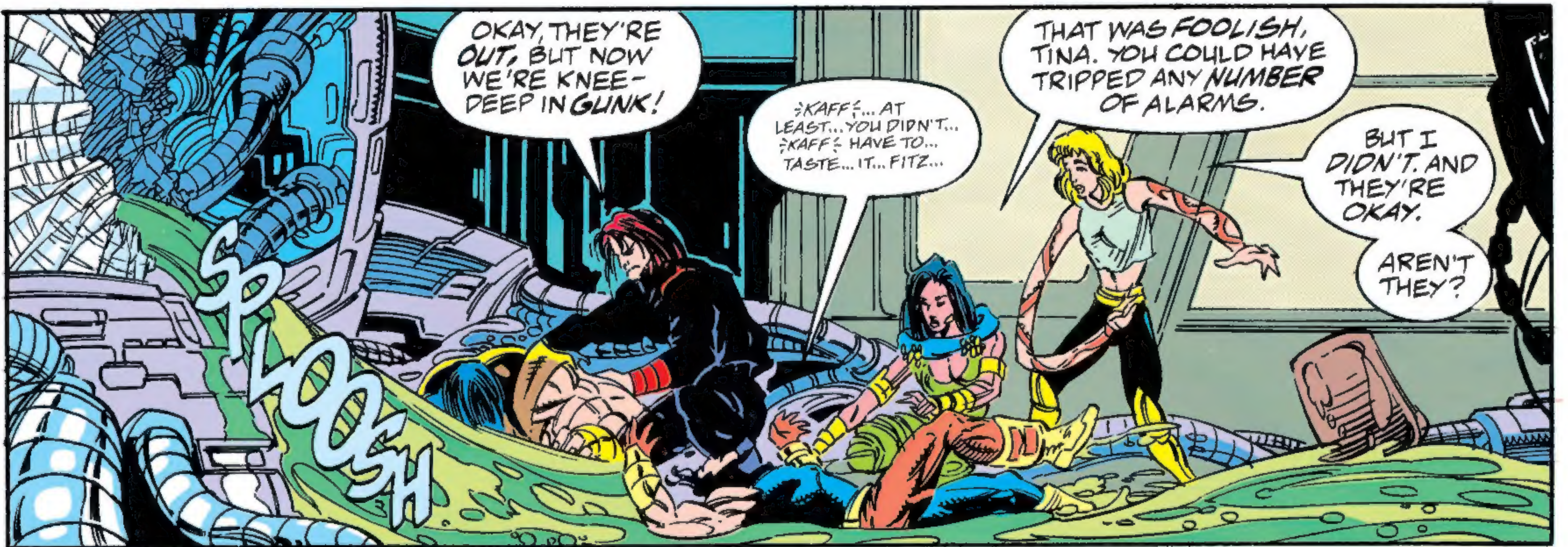
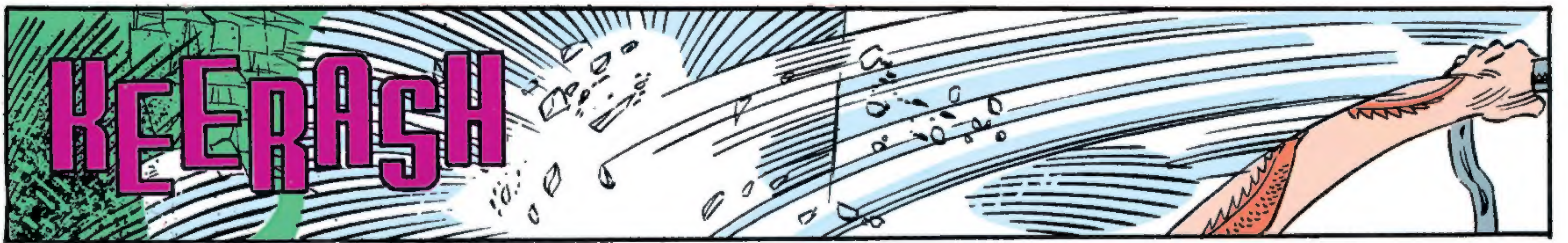
I SHOULD BE ABLE TO  
OVERRIDE THE STASIS  
LOCKS IN ANOTHER  
MINUTE.



FORGET  
THE STUPID  
COMPUTER,  
SHAKTI!

I CAN'T  
STAND SEEING MY  
FRIENDS BOTTLED  
UP LIKE SO MUCH  
FOOD PRODUCT.









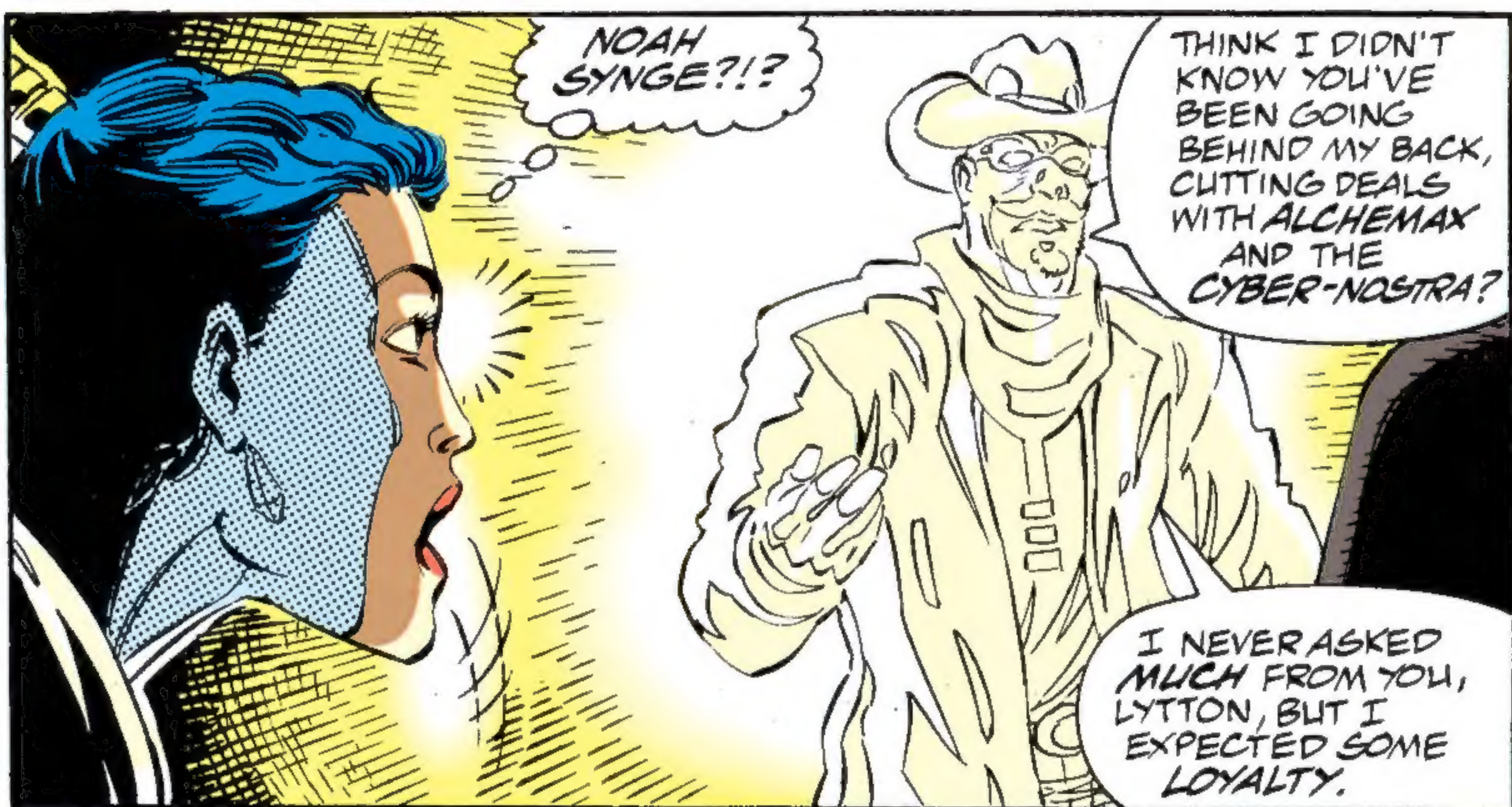
MAYBE I'VE BECOME TOO DEPENDENT ON MY PARTNERSHIP WITH HENRI.

I LET HIM MEMORIZE THE CASINO FLOOR PLANS ASSUMING HE'D BE AROUND TO TAKE POINT.

NOW AFTER DODGING SYNGE SECURITY FOR HOURS--

--I HAVE NO IDEA WHERE I AM.

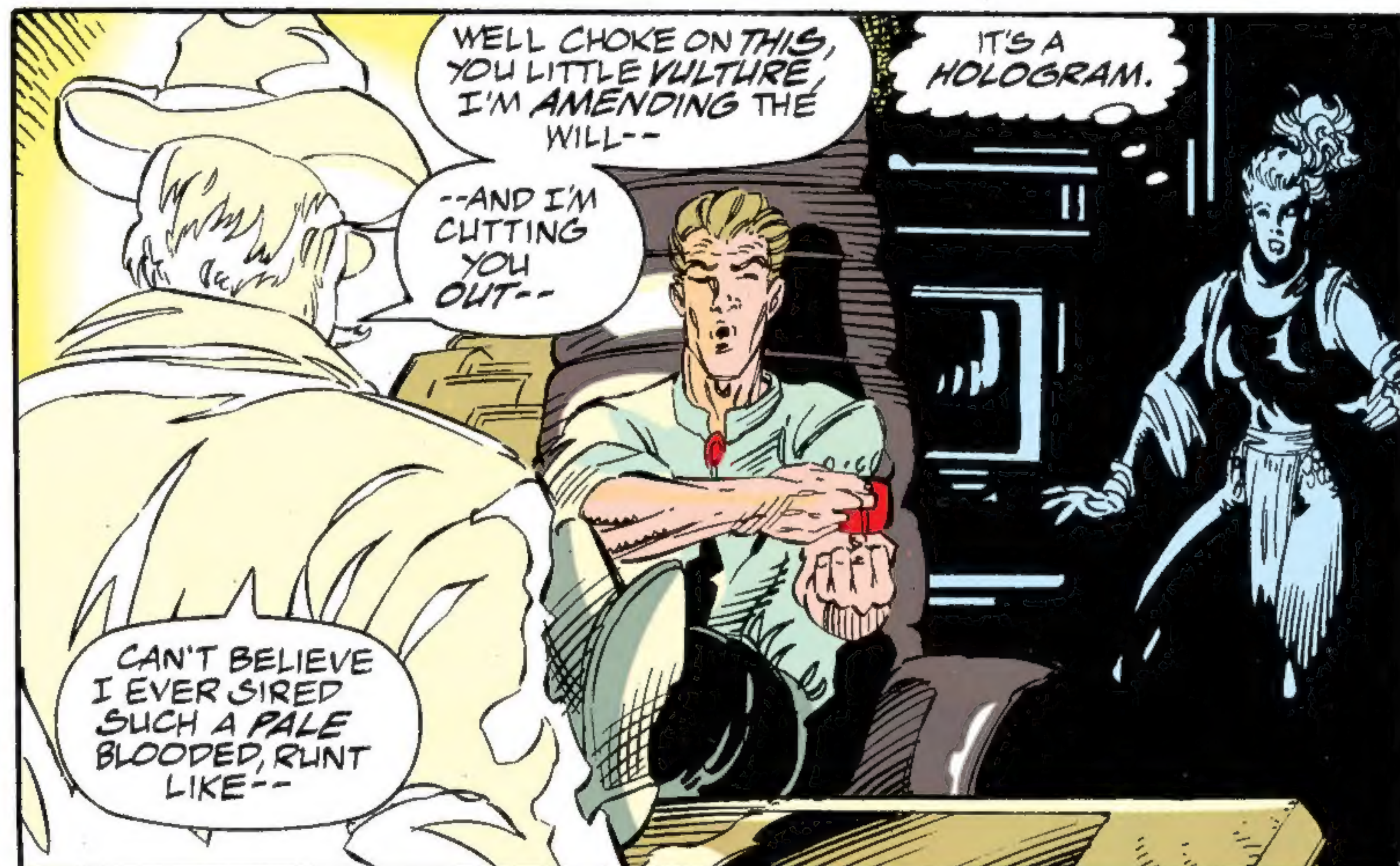
THERE'S NO WAY IN BLAZES I'M GOING TO LET YOU GO ANY FURTHER!



NOAH SYNGE?!?

THINK I DIDN'T KNOW YOU'VE BEEN GOING BEHIND MY BACK, CUTTING DEALS WITH ALCHEMAX AND THE CYBER-NOSTRA?

I NEVER ASKED MUCH FROM YOU, LYTTON, BUT I EXPECTED SOME LOYALTY.

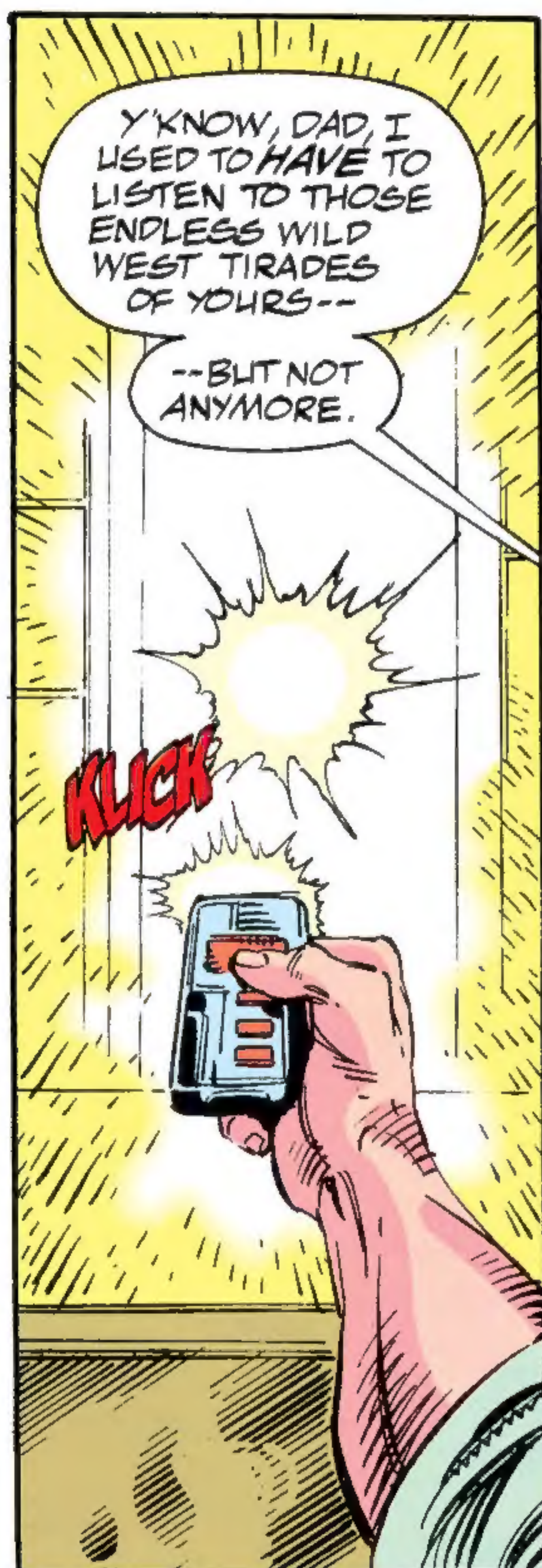


WE'LL CHOKE ON THIS, YOU LITTLE VULTURE, I'M AMENDING THE WILL--

--AND I'M CUTTING YOU OUT--

IT'S A HOLOGRAM.

CAN'T BELIEVE I EVER Sired SUCH A PALE BLOODED, RUNT LIKE--



Y'KNOW, DAD, I USED TO HAVE TO LISTEN TO THOSE ENDLESS WILD WEST TIRADES OF YOURS--

--BUT NOT ANYMORE.

KLICK



THE CASINO'S ALL MINE NOW, AND SO IS YOUR SEAT ON THE SYNDICATE.

LET ME TELL YOU, DADDY, THE ONLY REGRET I HAVE IN KILLING YOU--

--IS THAT I ONLY GOT TO WATCH YOU DIE ONCE.



SO YOU SET XI'AN UP FOR THE MURDER YOU COMMITTED!

NOW FEEL THE SHARP EDGE OF INSTANT KARMA PRESSED AGAINST YOUR THROAT.





THE SYNDICATE WILL BE INTERESTED IN HEARING THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR FATHER'S DEATH.

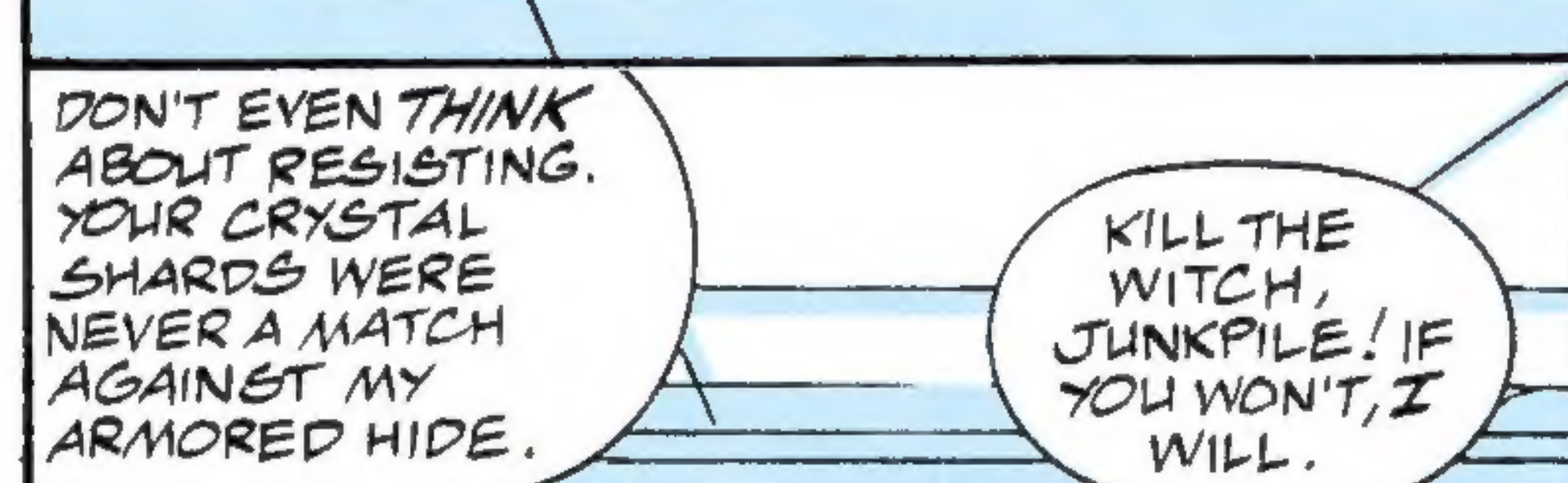
THEY FROWN ON PATRICIDE--NO MATTER HOW JUSTIFIABLE.

KRYSTALIN-- RIGHT? AREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO BE THE COMPASSIONATE MEMBER OF XI'AN'S LITTLE MUTANT MOB?



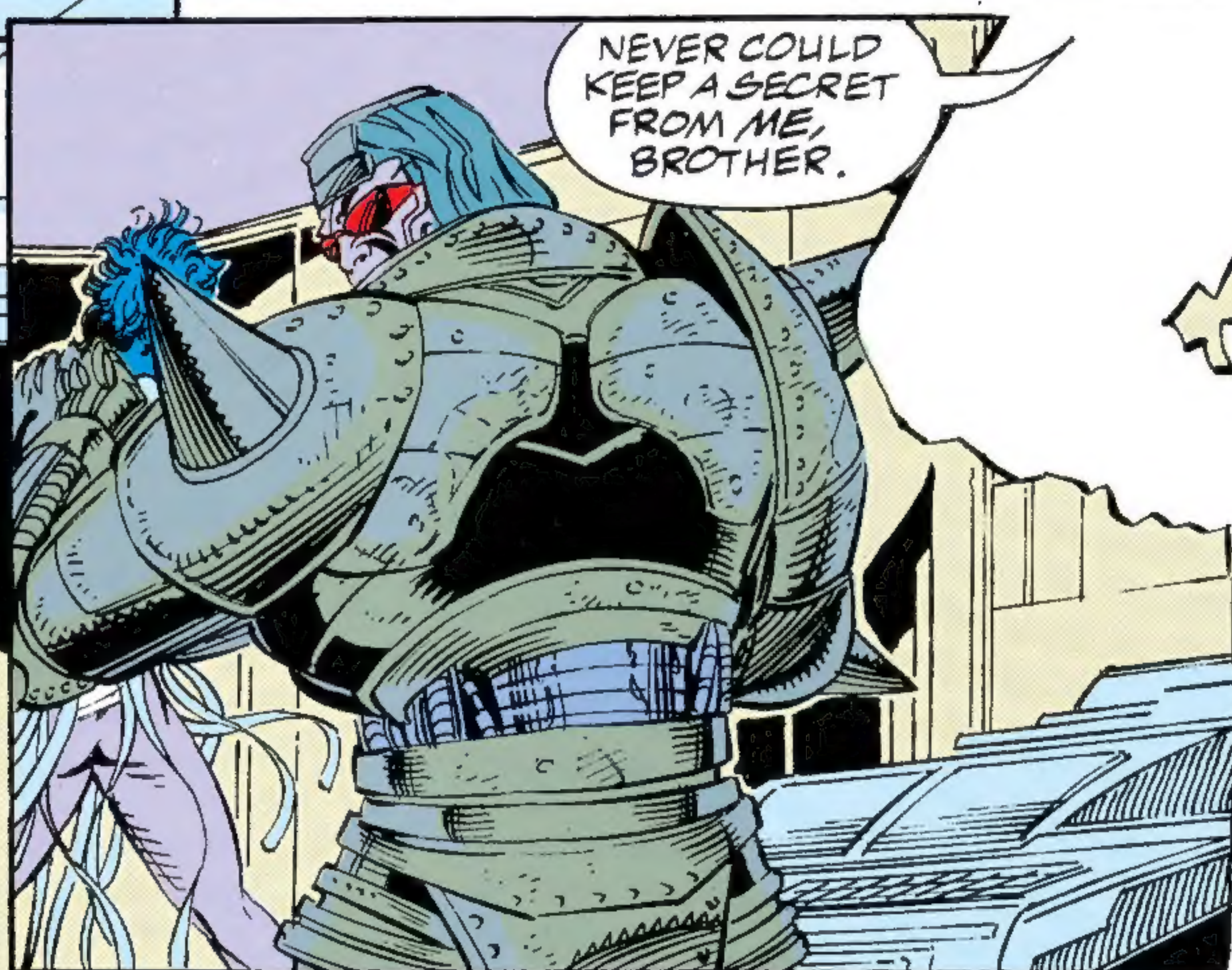
YOU DON'T DESERVE COMPASS--

GIVE IT A REST, KRY, YOU DON'T PLAY HARD BOILED WELL.

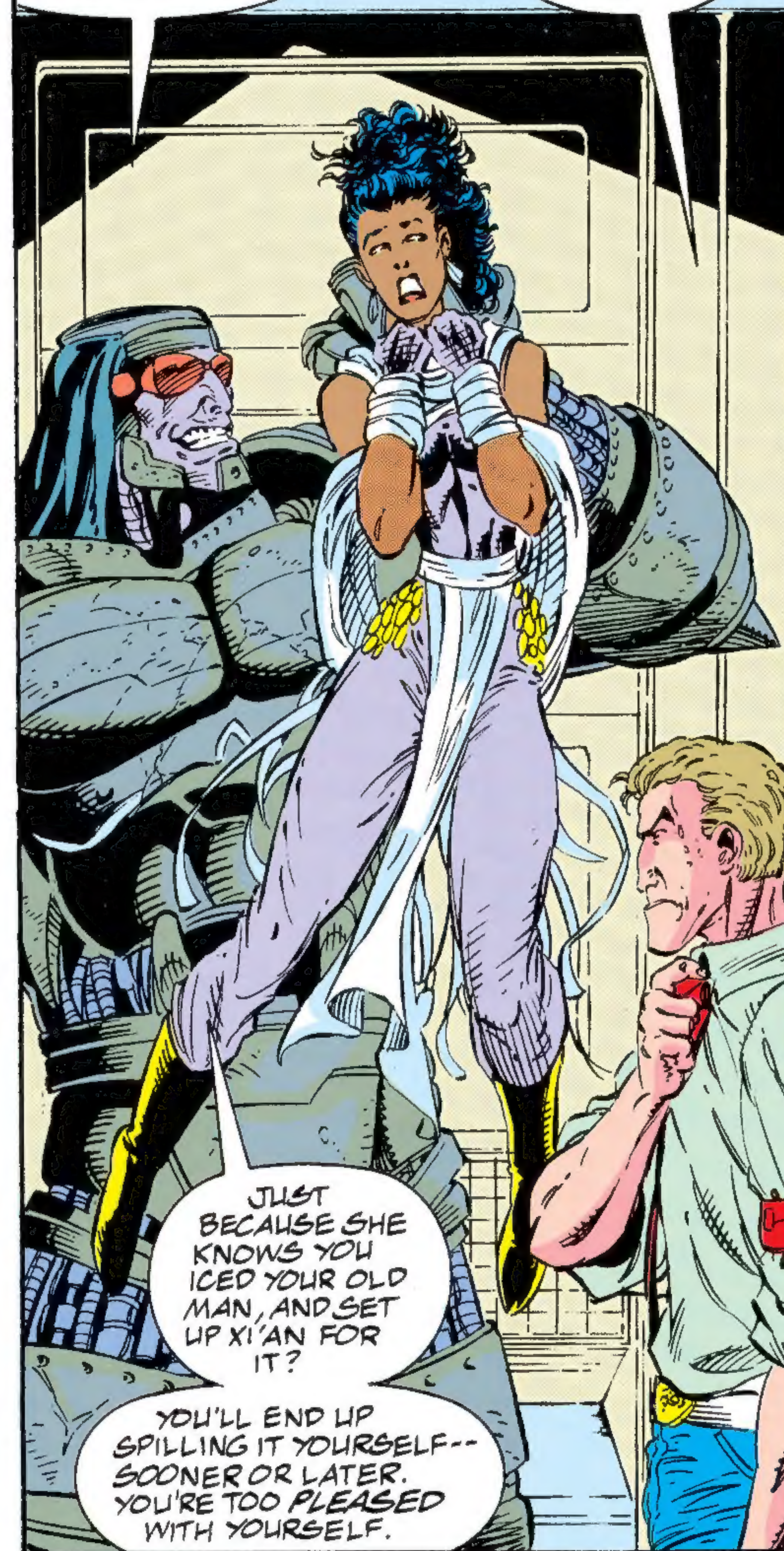


DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT RESISTING. YOUR CRYSTAL SHARDS WERE NEVER A MATCH AGAINST MY ARMORED HIDE.

KILL THE WITCH, JUNKPILE! IF YOU WON'T, I WILL.



NEVER COULD KEEP A SECRET FROM ME, BROTHER.



JUST BECAUSE SHE KNOWS YOU ICED YOUR OLD MAN, AND SET UP XI'AN FOR IT?

YOU'LL END UP SPILLING IT YOURSELF-- SOONER OR LATER. YOU'RE TOO PLEASED WITH YOURSELF.

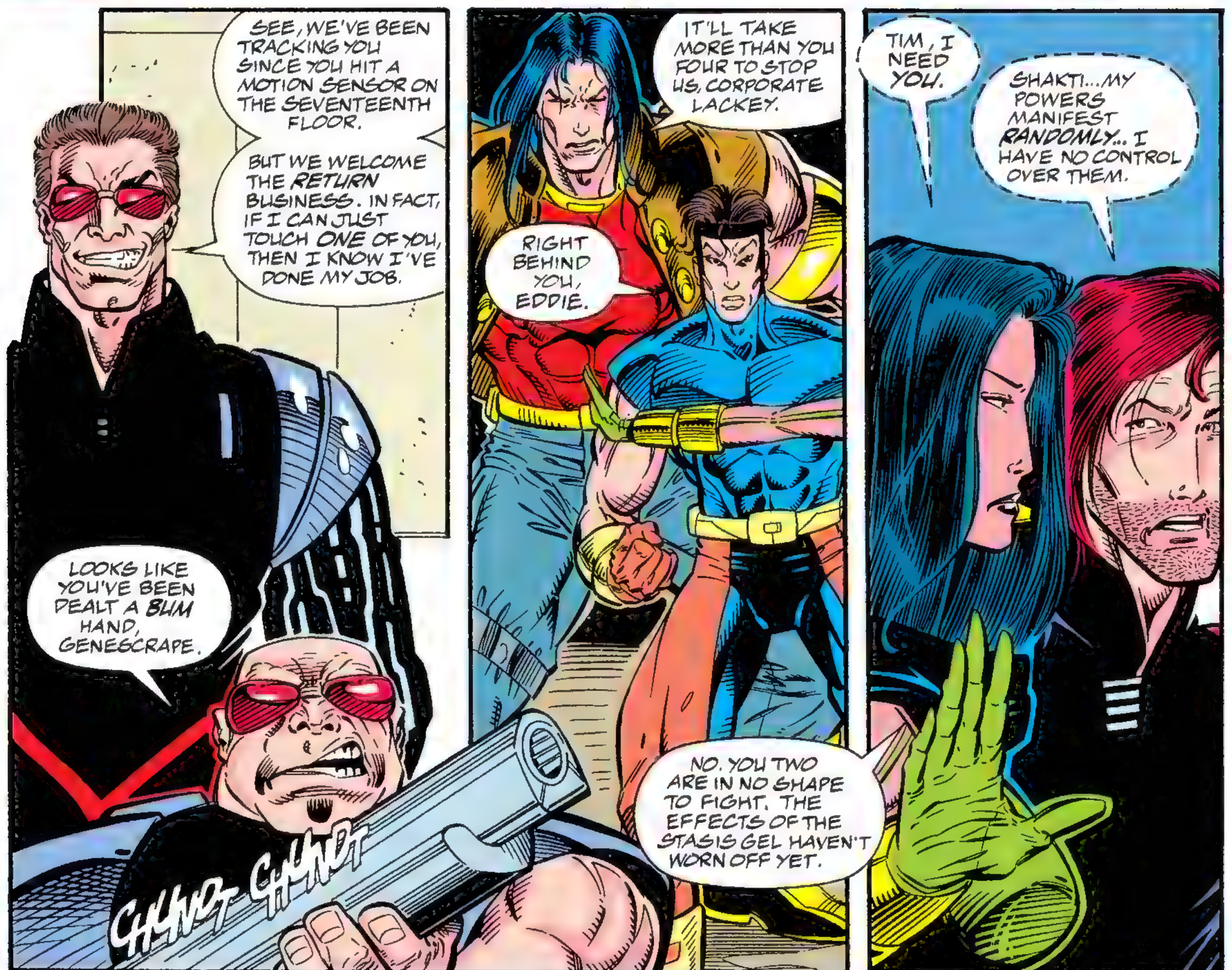
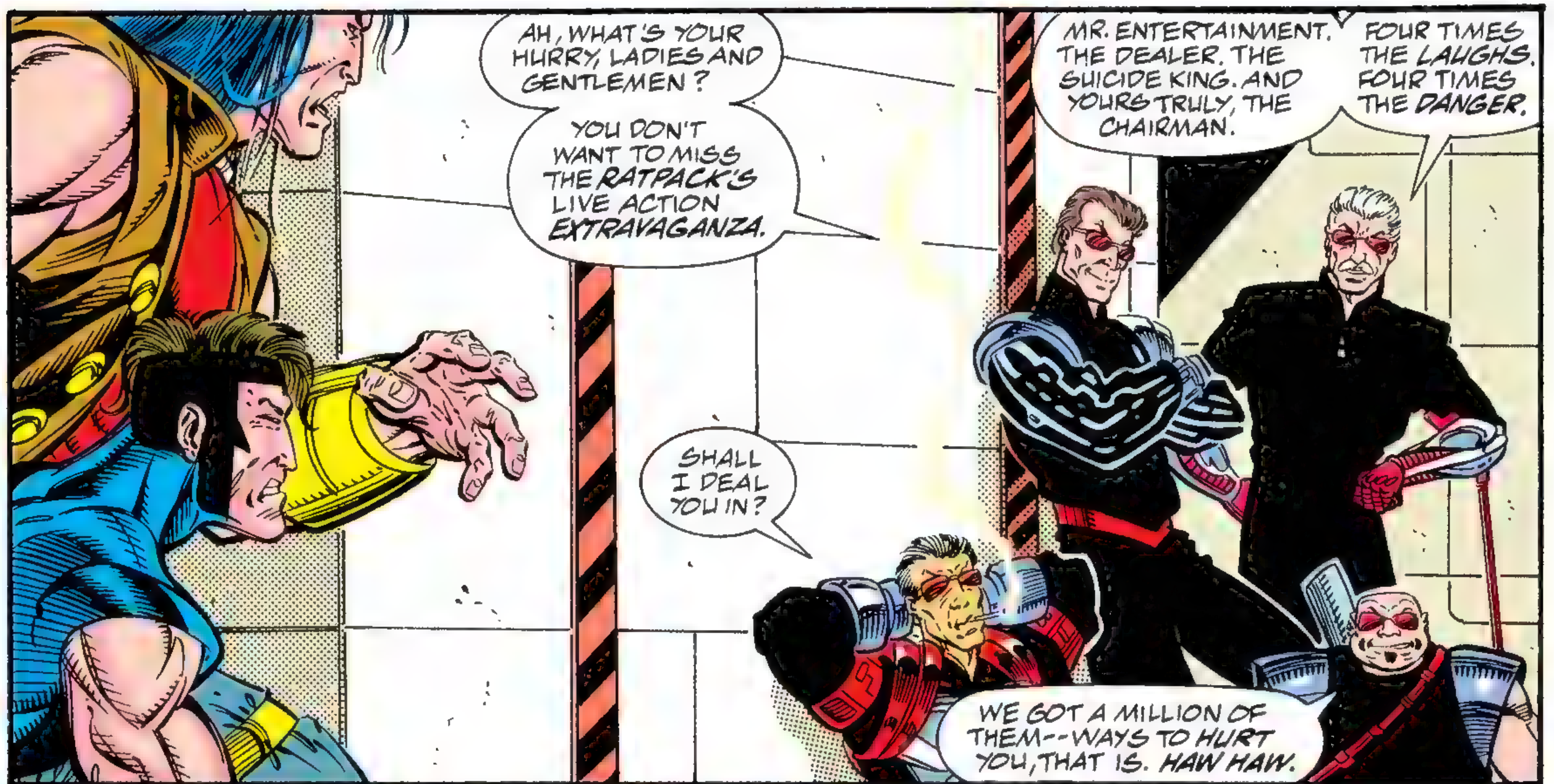
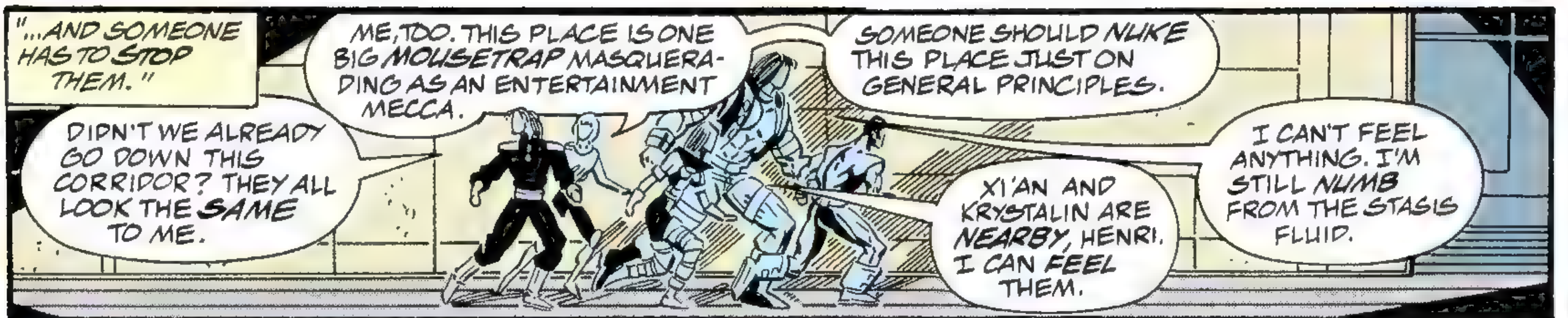


DESDEMONA? GET OUT OF HERE, SIS!

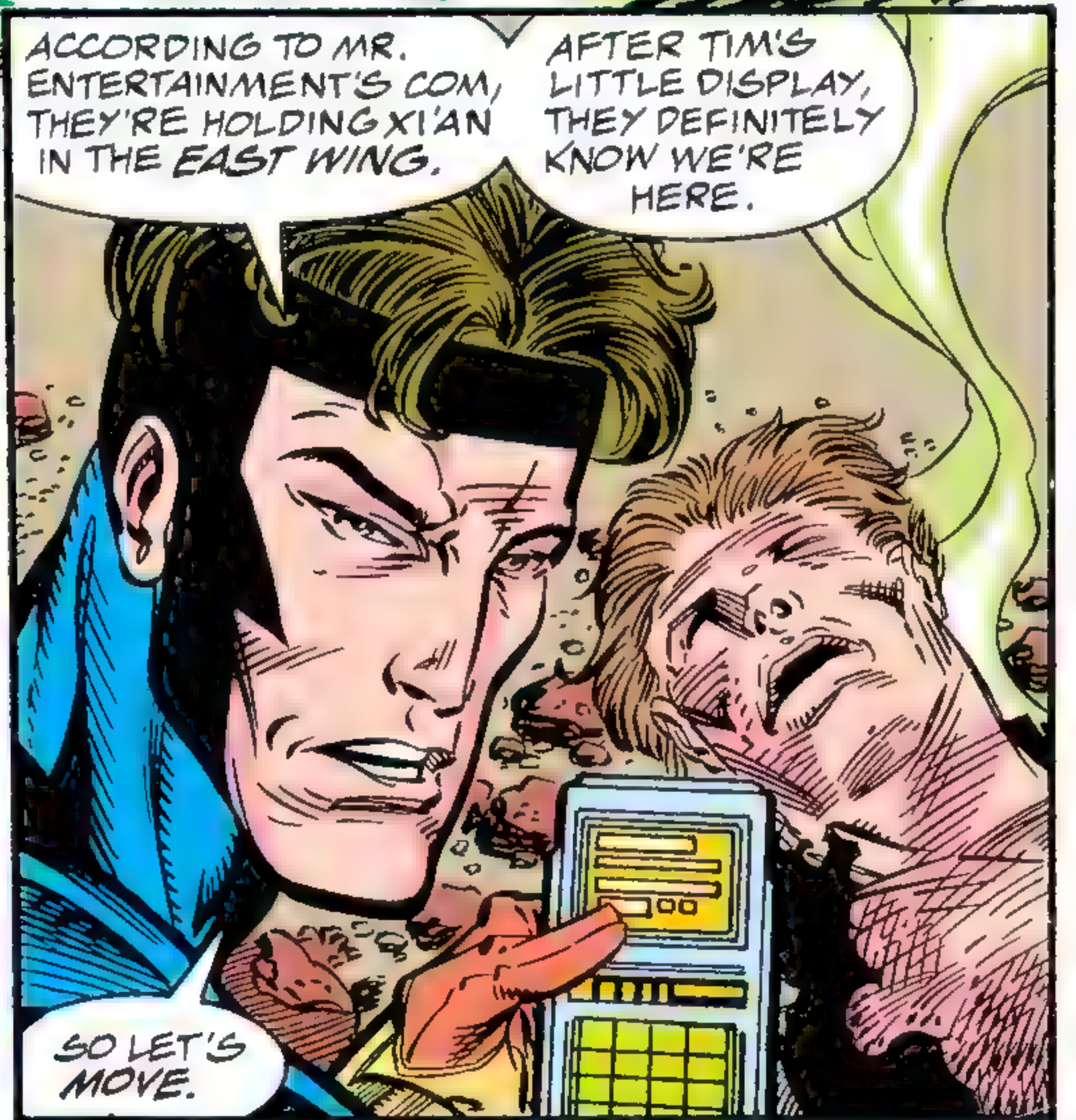
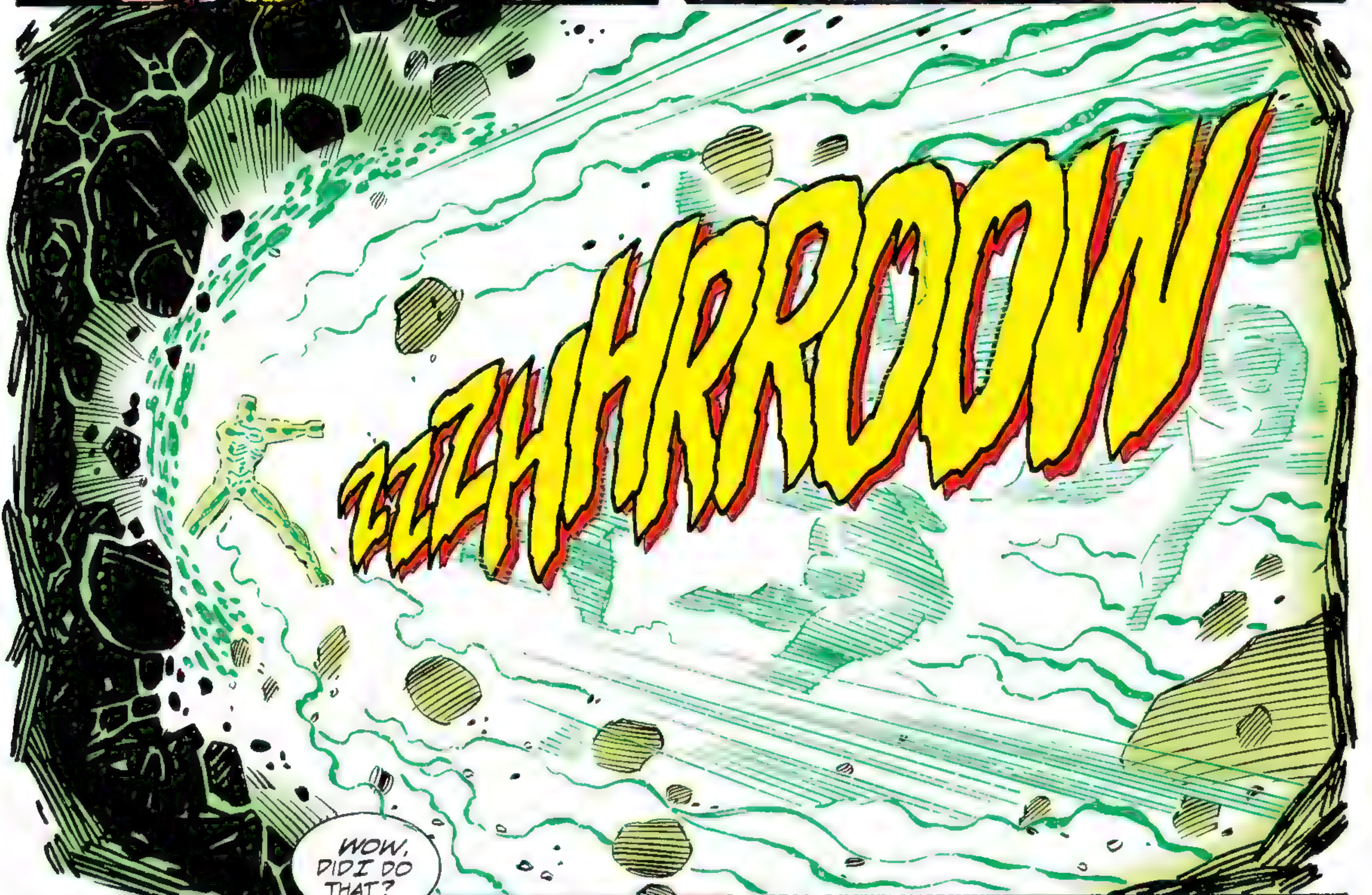
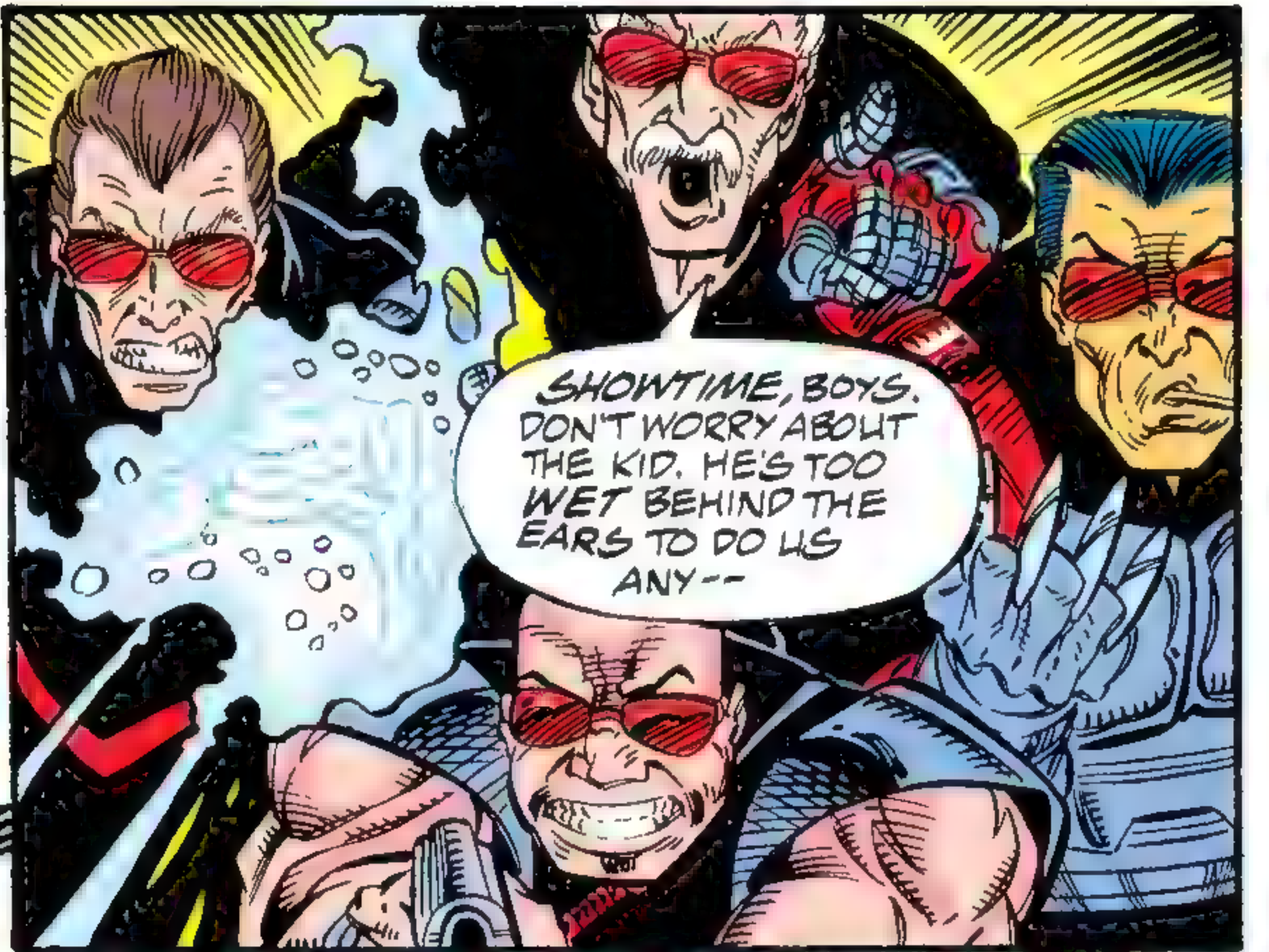
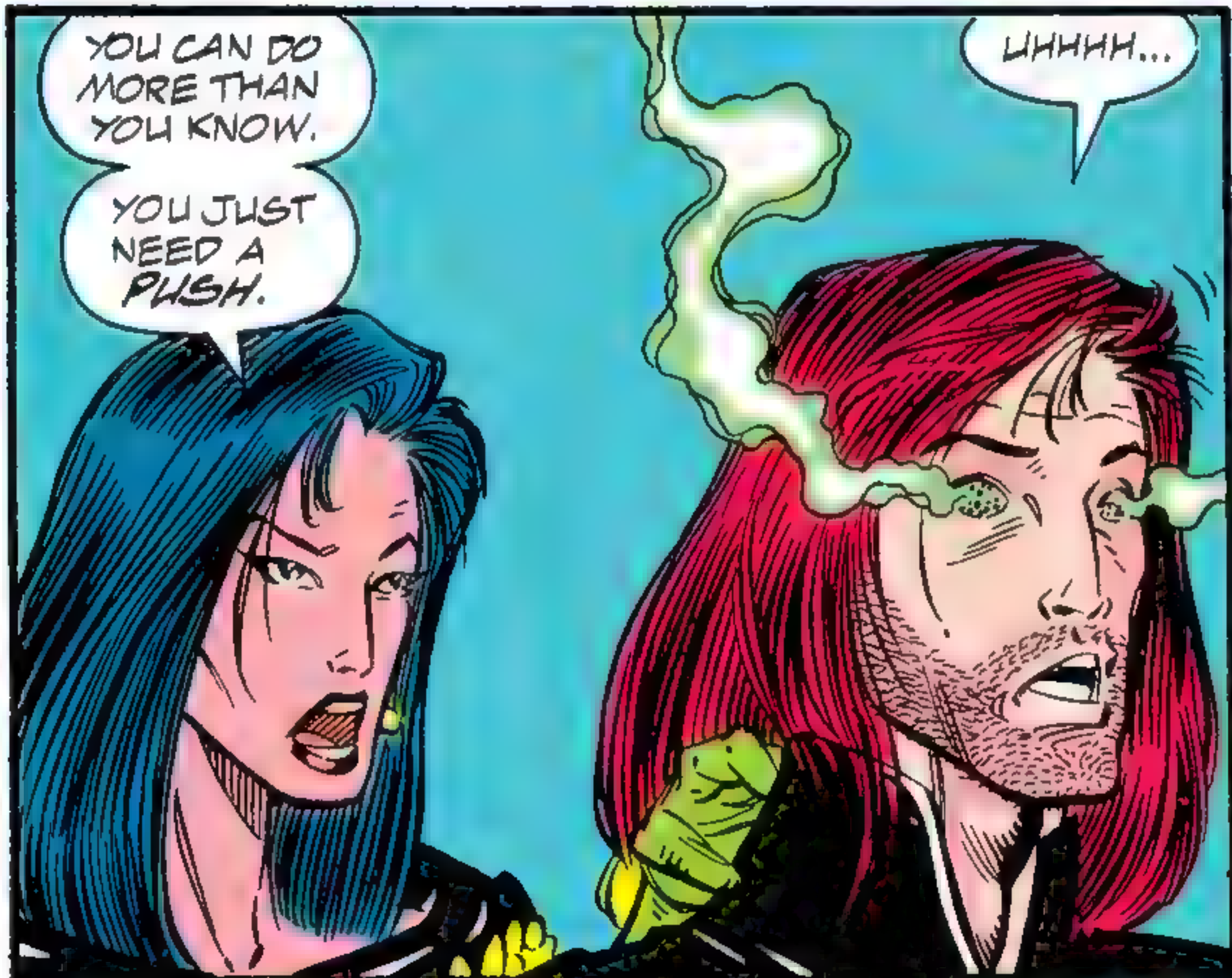
NO, LYTTON, IT'S TIME I TAKE CHARGE.

--AS MUCH AS I HATE CLEANING UP YOUR MESS, WE STILL HAVE A BAND OF MUTANTS ROAMING THE CASINO...

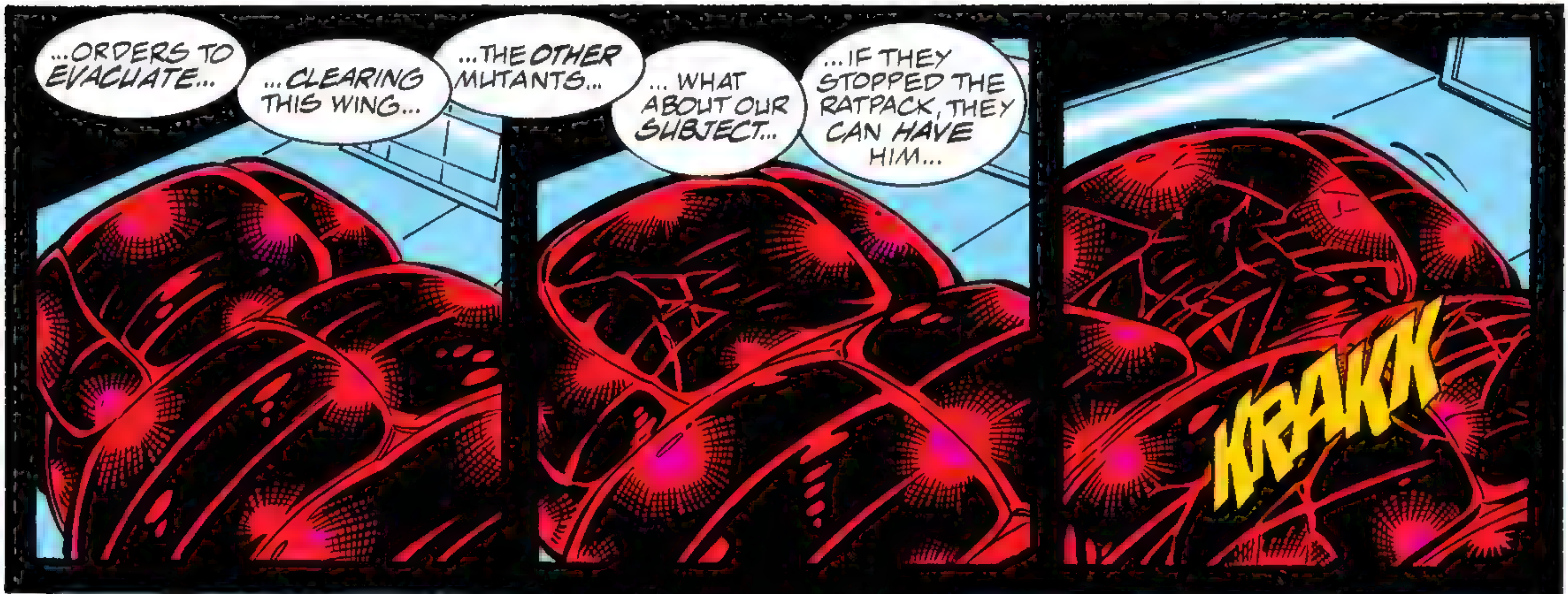












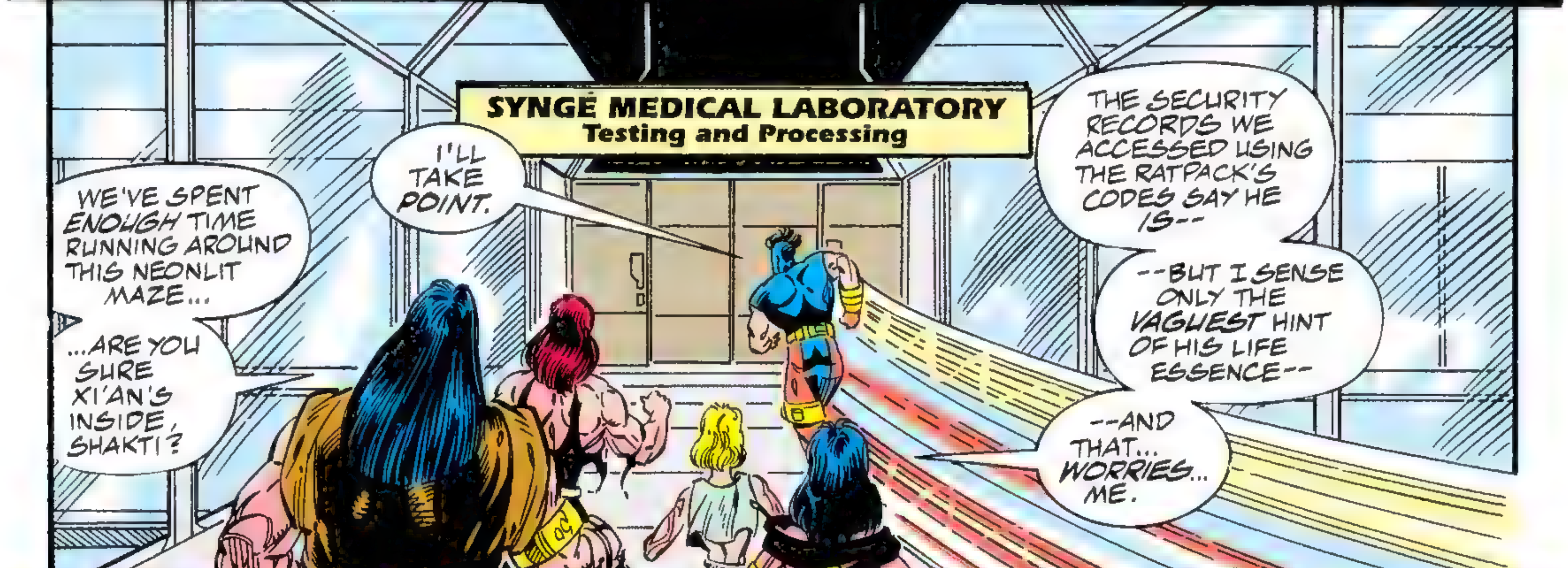
...ORDERS TO EVACUATE...

...CLEARING THIS WING...

...THE OTHER MUTANTS...

...WHAT ABOUT OUR SUBJECT...

...IF THEY STOPPED THE RATPACK, THEY CAN HAVE HIM...



WE'VE SPENT ENOUGH TIME RUNNING AROUND THIS NEONLIT MAZE...

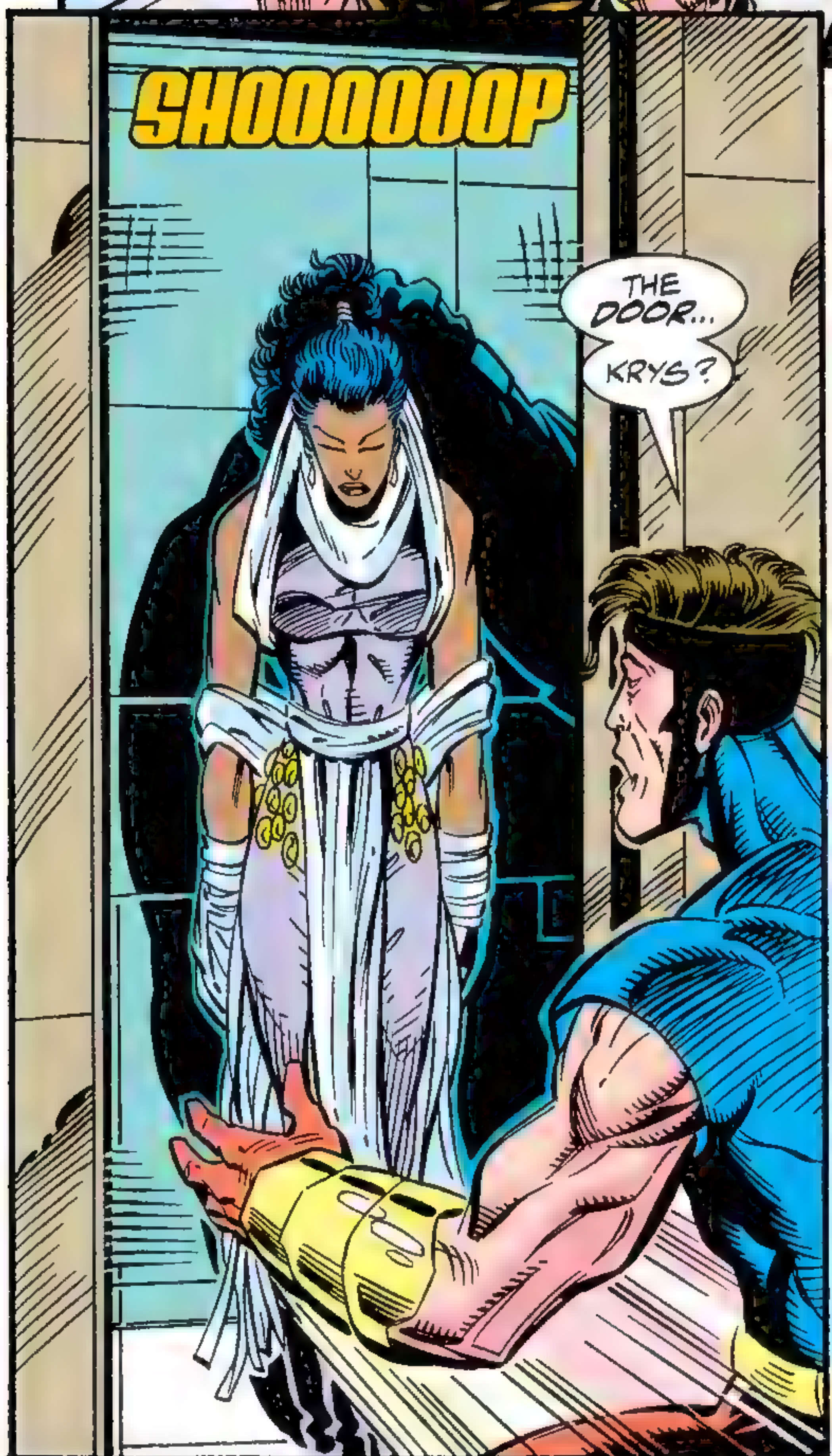
...ARE YOU SURE XI'AN'S INSIDE, SHAKTI?

I'LL TAKE POINT.

THE SECURITY RECORDS WE ACCESSED USING THE RATPACK'S CODES SAY HE IS--

--BUT I SENSE ONLY THE VAGUEST HINT OF HIS LIFE ESSENCE--

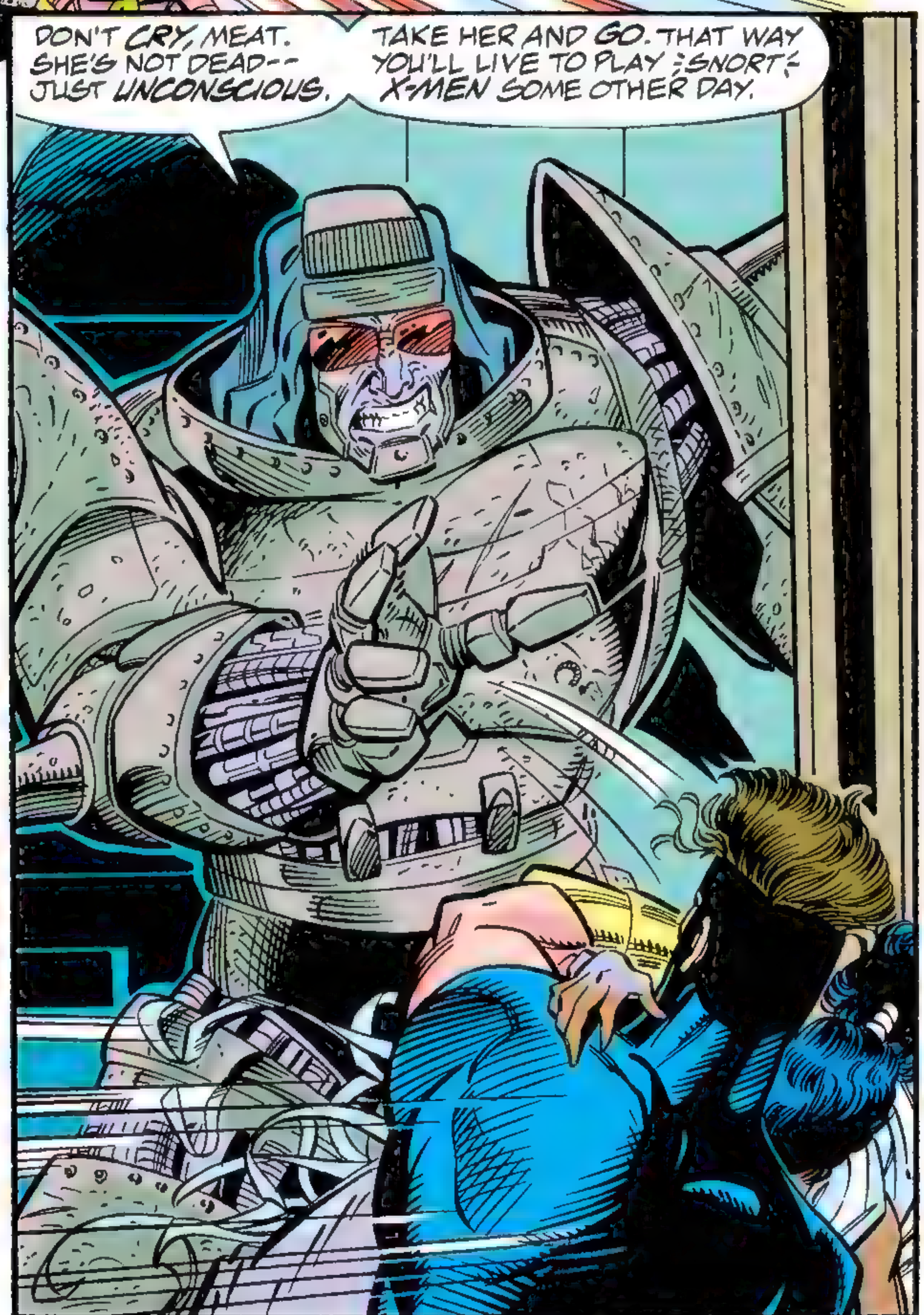
--AND THAT... WORRIES... ME.



SHOOOOOOOP

THE DOOR...

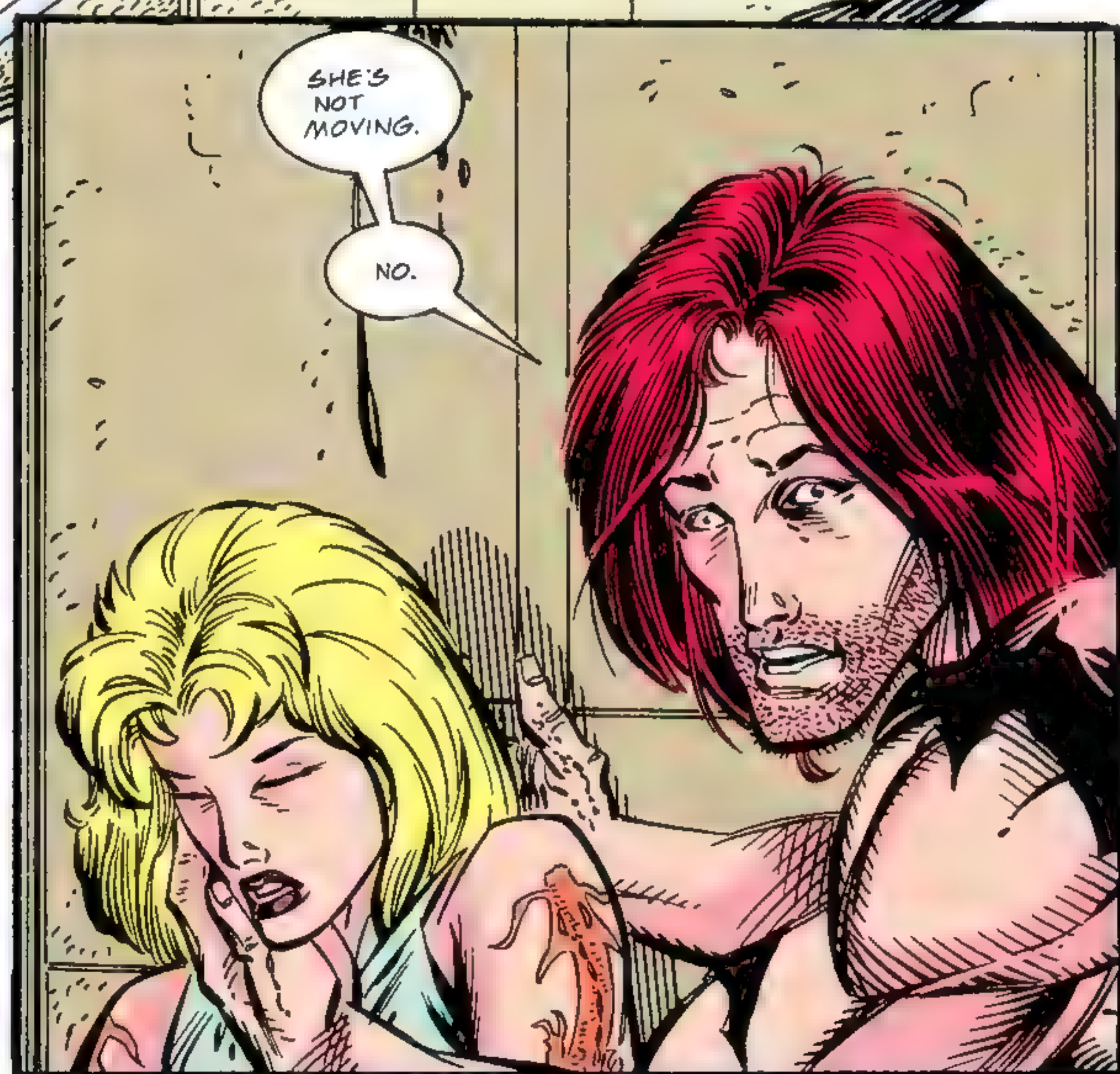
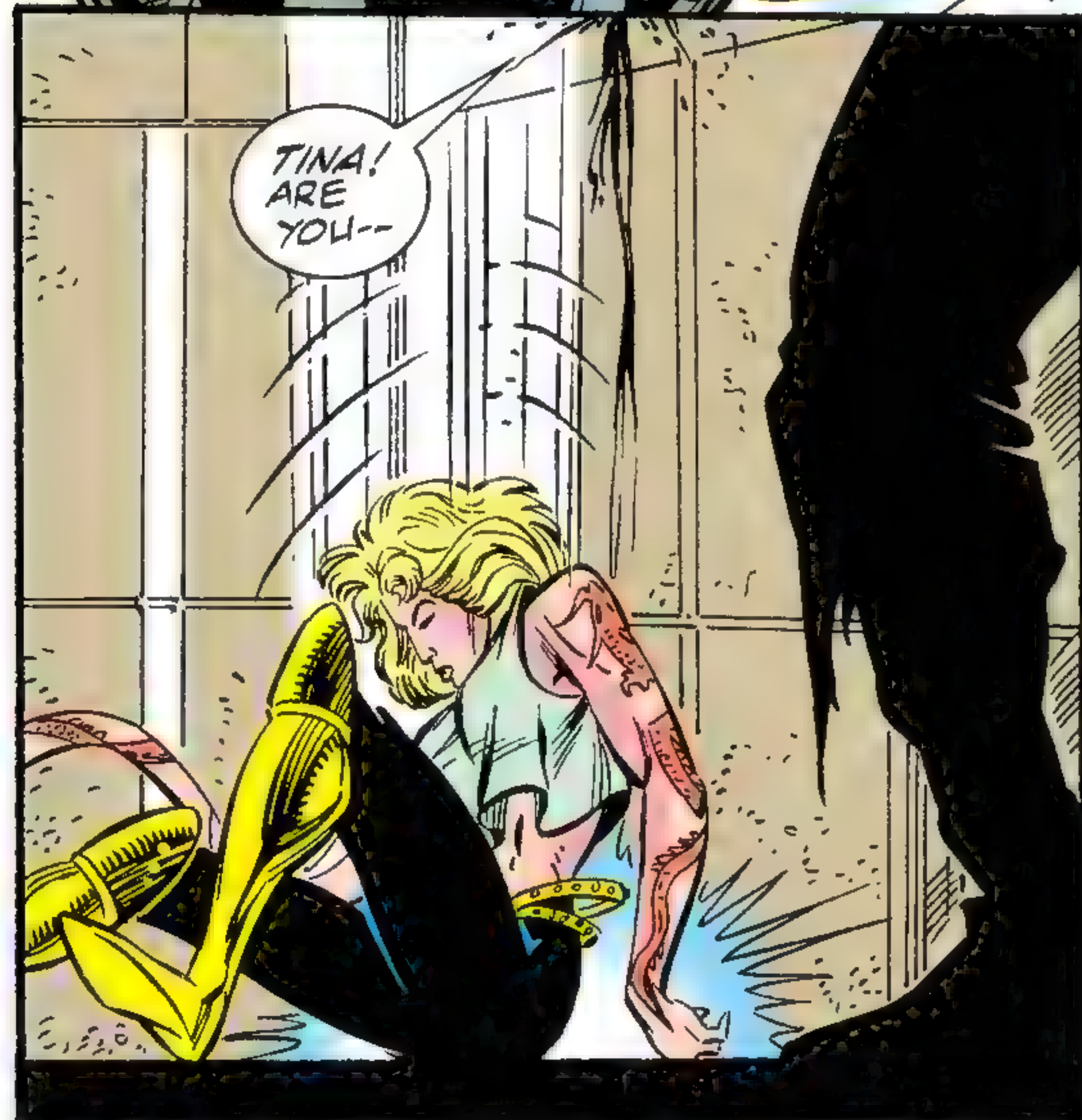
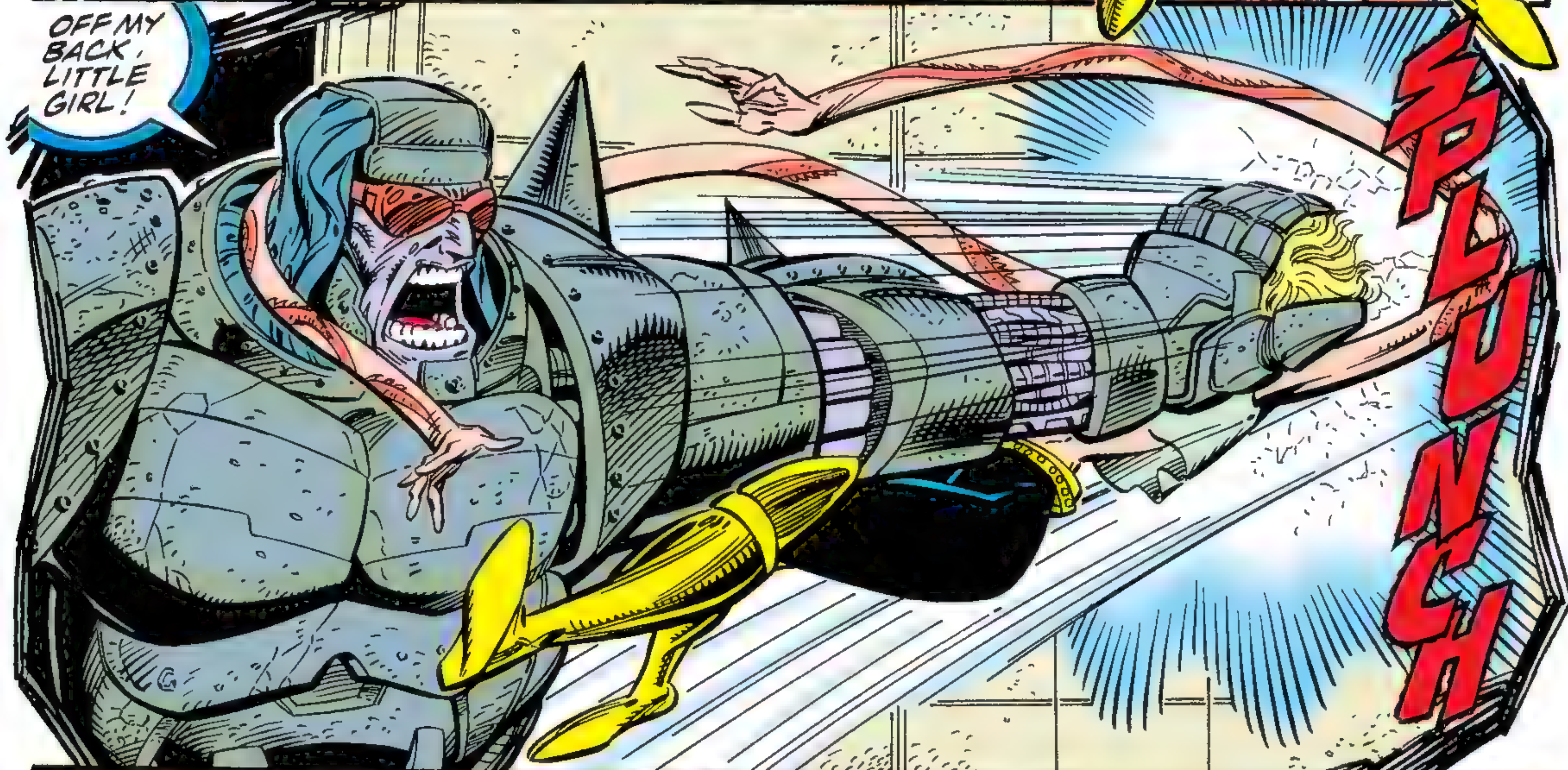
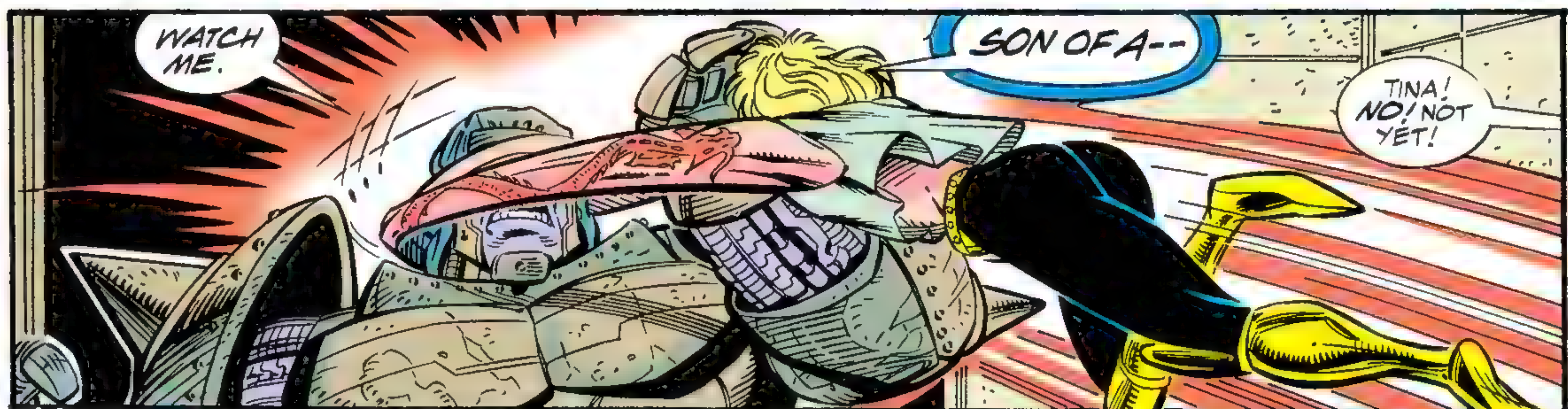
KRYS?



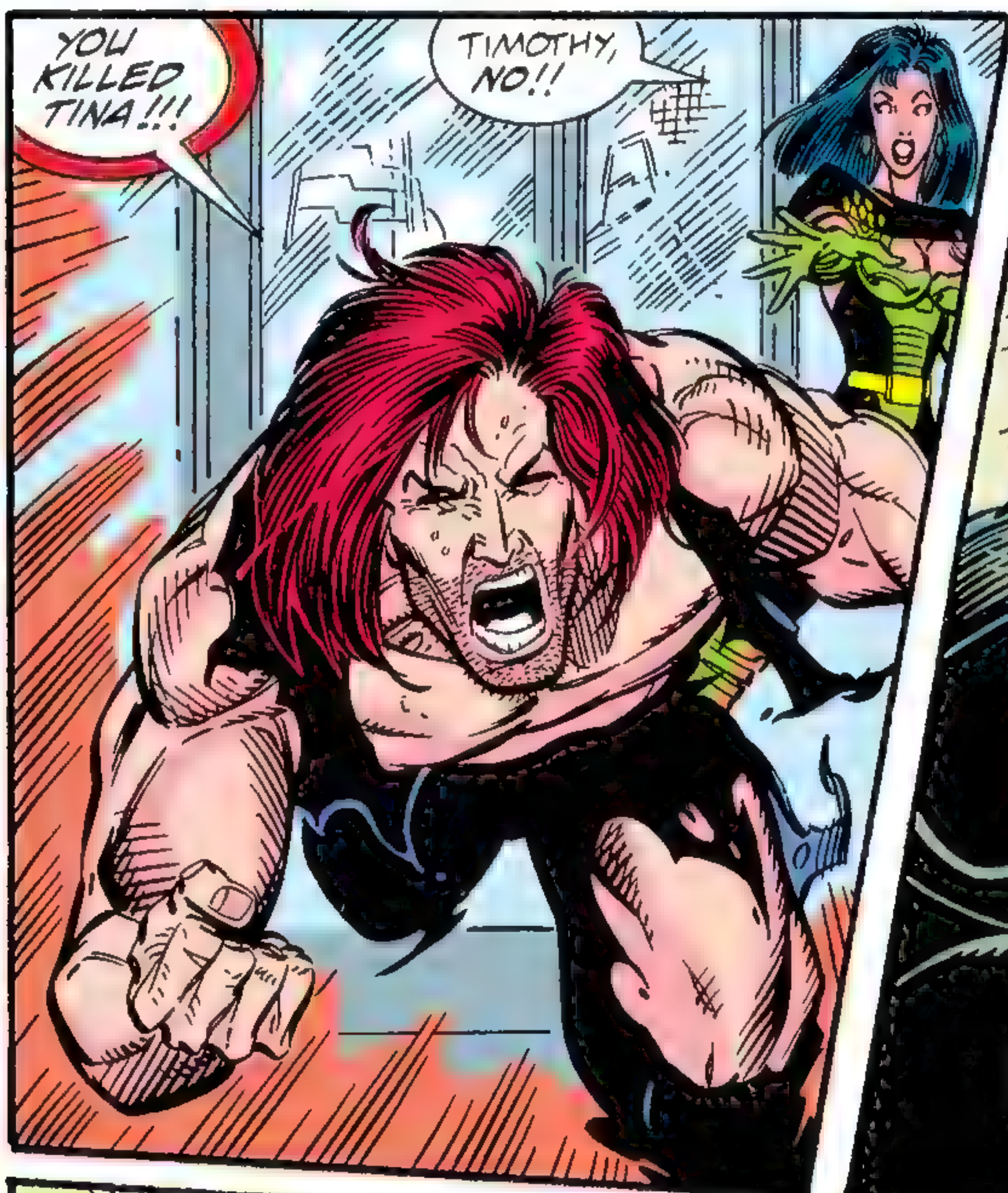
DON'T CRY, MEAT. SHE'S NOT DEAD-- JUST UNCONSCIOUS.

TAKE HER AND GO. THAT WAY YOU'LL LIVE TO PLAY :SNORT: X-MEN SOME OTHER DAY.



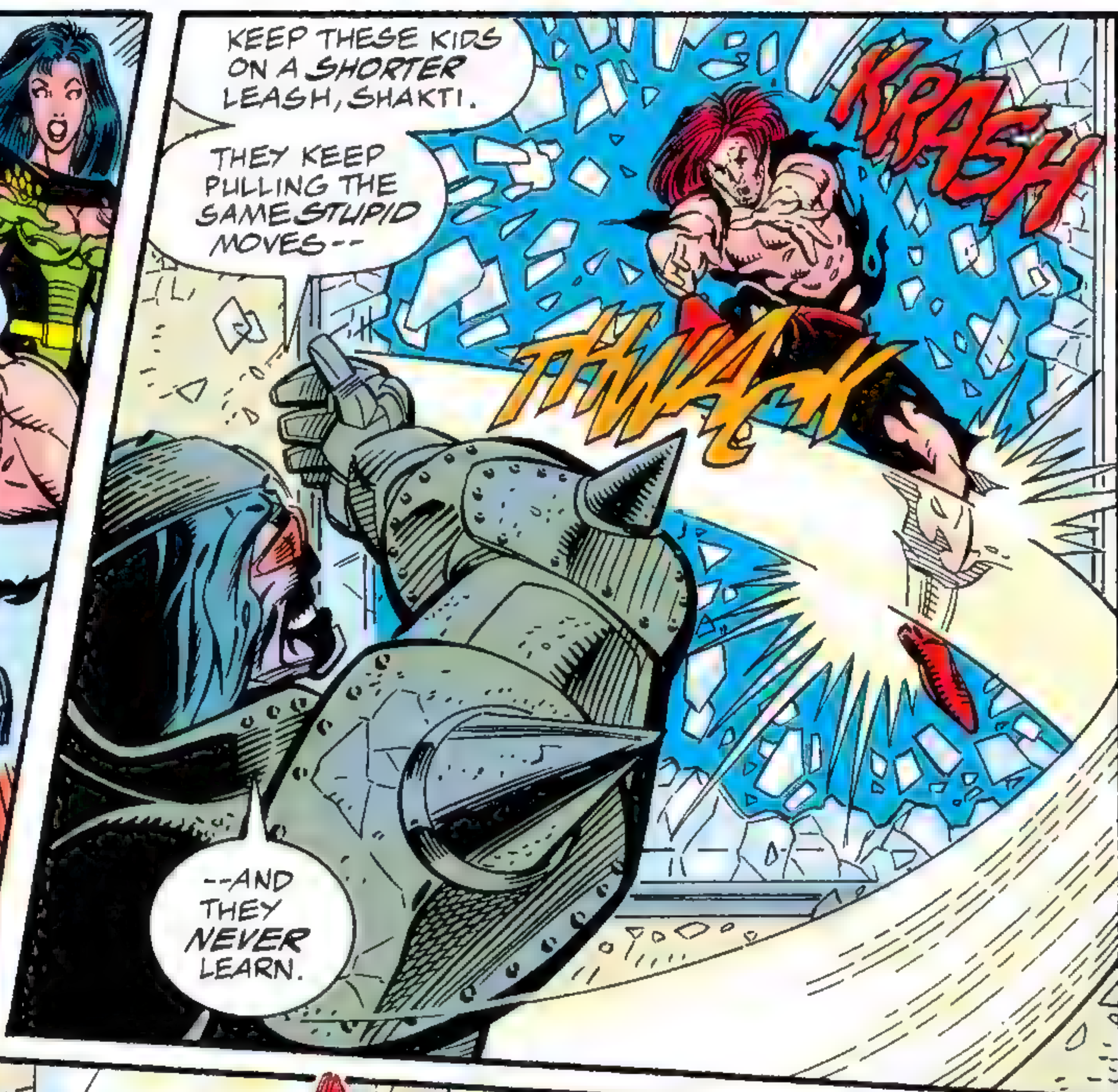






YOU  
KILLED  
TINA!!!

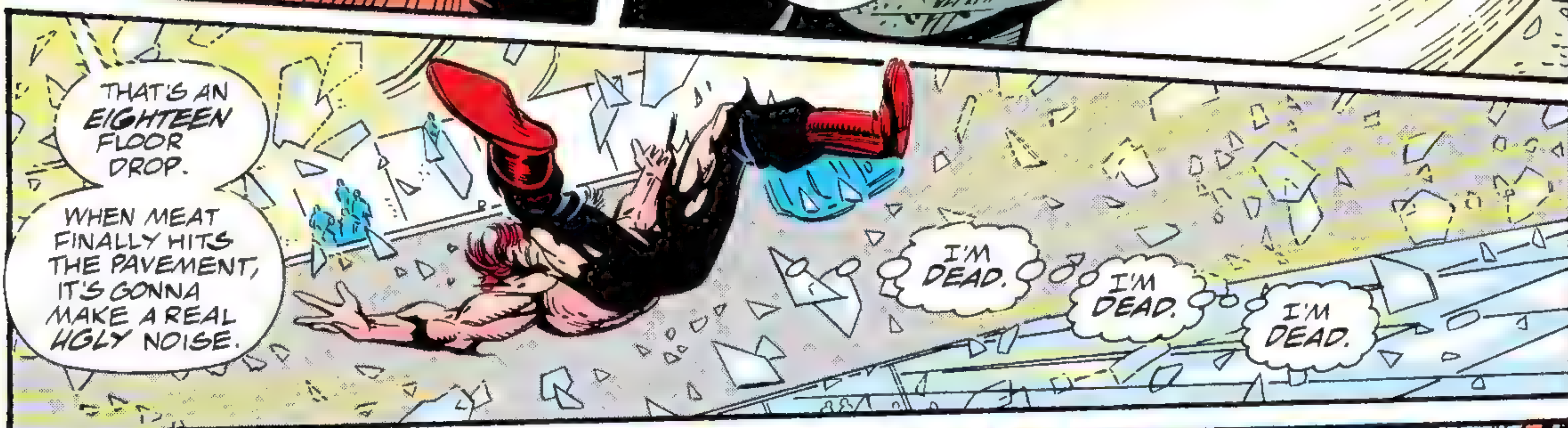
TIMOTHY,  
NO!!



KEEP THESE KIDS  
ON A SHORTER  
LEASH, SHAKTI.

THEY KEEP  
PULLING THE  
SAME STUPID  
MOVES--

--AND  
THEY  
NEVER  
LEARN.



THAT'S AN  
EIGHTEEN  
FLOOR  
DROP.

WHEN MEAT  
FINALLY HITS  
THE PAVEMENT,  
IT'S GONNA  
MAKE A REAL  
UGLY NOISE.

I'M  
DEAD.

I'M  
DEAD.

I'M  
DEAD.



I'M  
NOT  
DEAD?

THERE WILL  
ALWAYS BE  
TOMORROW  
TO DIE.

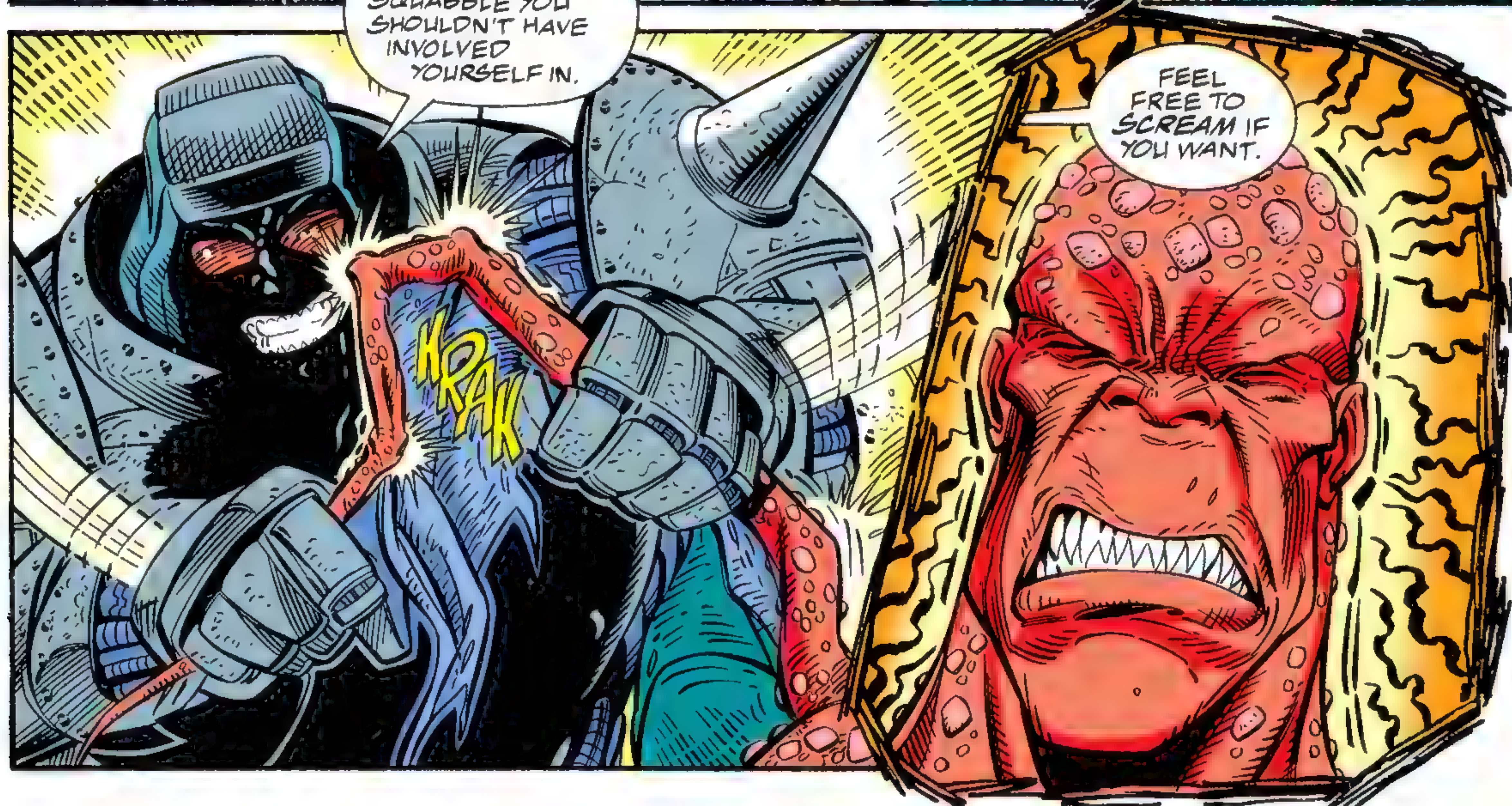
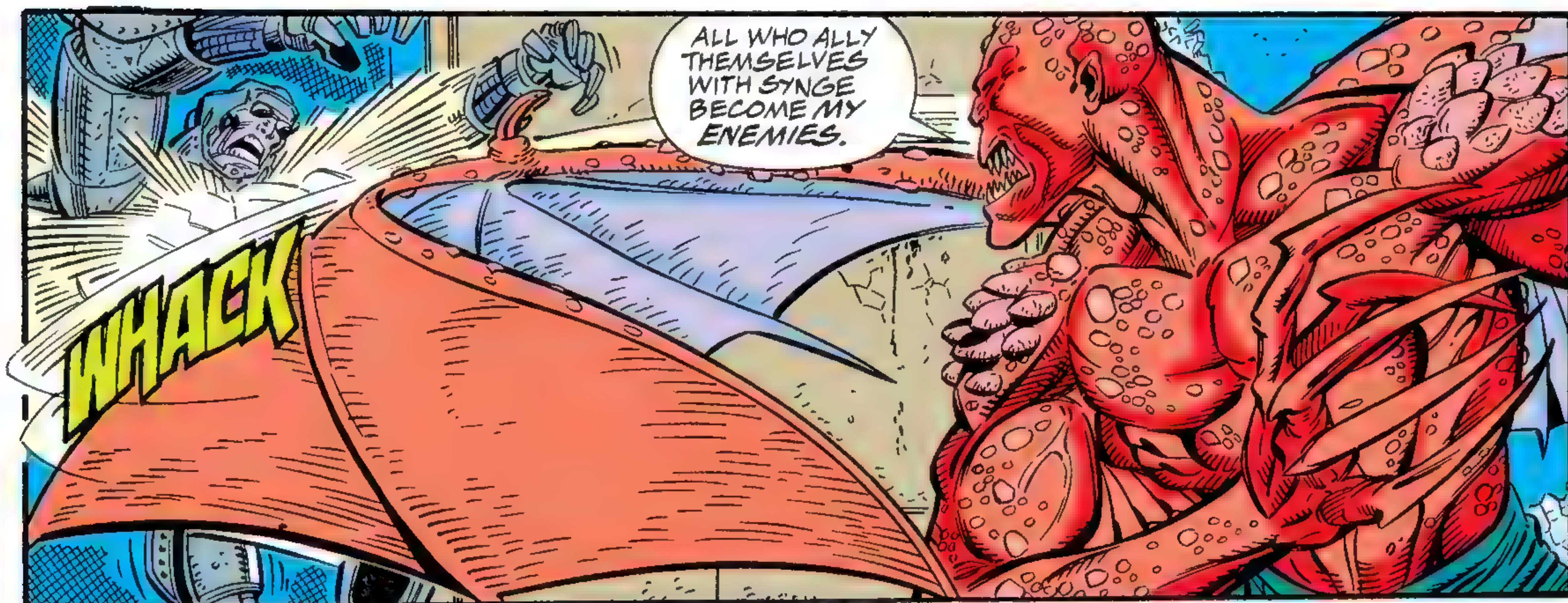


BLOODHAWK,  
THOUGHT YOU  
HATED VEGAS.

DON'T TELL ME YOU  
BOUGHT INTO XI'AN'S  
X-MEN RAP?

XI'AN IS AN  
HONORABLE MAN.  
YOUR BETRAYAL  
DOES HIM A GRAVE  
INJUSTICE.









THIS VIOLENCE AGAINST  
YOUR MUTANT BRETHREN  
ENDS HERE --

--NOW THAT  
MY POWER  
HAS  
RETURNED,  
YOU FACE  
ANOTHER  
MAN OF  
METAL.

I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT BOLT FELL  
OFF THAT RUST  
COVERED BRAIN  
TO MAKE YOU  
SELL US OUT TO  
LYTTON SYNGE--

--BUT THERE'S  
NO WAY I'M  
GOING TO LET  
YOU WALK  
AFTER WHAT  
YOU DID TO  
TINA.

YOU CAN BE SURE OF ONE THING,  
YOU SCRAP METAL JUDAS--

--WE'RE GONNA REDUCE  
YOU TO A PILE OF METAL  
SHAVINGS.

MANY DEAD MEN  
HAVE SAID THE  
SAME THING.

TOO BAD. I THOUGHT  
AT LEAST SOME OF  
YOU WOULD BE SMART  
ENOUGH TO WALK  
AWAY.

XI'AN REALLY DID  
A NUMBER ON YOU WITH  
HIS PIE IN THE SKY  
PROMISES OF  
BROTHERHOOD.

JUNKPILE, YOU  
KNOW NOTHING  
OF THE BONDS  
OF LOYALTY.

YOU ARE NO MORE  
THAN A DISTEMPERED  
ANIMAL THAT NEEDS  
TO BE PUT TO SLEEP.

TAKE YOUR  
BEST SHOT,  
BOYS AND  
GI--

**NO MORE!**





ENOUGH  
MUTANT BLOOD  
HAS BEEN  
SPILLED  
TODAY.

XI'AN,  
YOU'RE  
ALIVE!

IT  
SEEMS MY  
BODY HAS  
AN  
UNUSUAL  
HEALING  
PROCESS.



SHOULD'VE STAYED  
IN YOUR COCOON,  
BROTHER.

JUNKPILE,  
YOU  
DISAPPOINT  
ME.

YEAH I MADE A  
MISTAKE. I NEVER  
SHOULD'VE LET THAT  
SHARPSHOOTER INTO  
THE GATHERING--

I SHOULD  
HAVE  
KILLED YOU  
MYSELF.



YOU'RE  
TOO SLOW  
FOR THAT,  
BROTHER.



ALWAYS SO  
SMUG,  
XI'AN, JUST  
LIKE YOU  
WERE IN THE  
LAWLESS.

--BUT ONCE  
I CONNECT,  
I'LL--

URRGGMPPH!!

YOU SHOULD  
HAVE WORRIED  
ABOUT ME  
CONNECTING.

ONE TOUCH OF MY HAND  
DISRUPTS THE MOLECULAR  
STRUCTURE OF THE METAL  
IN YOUR BODY.

I IMAGINE  
IT IS QUITE  
PAINFUL.

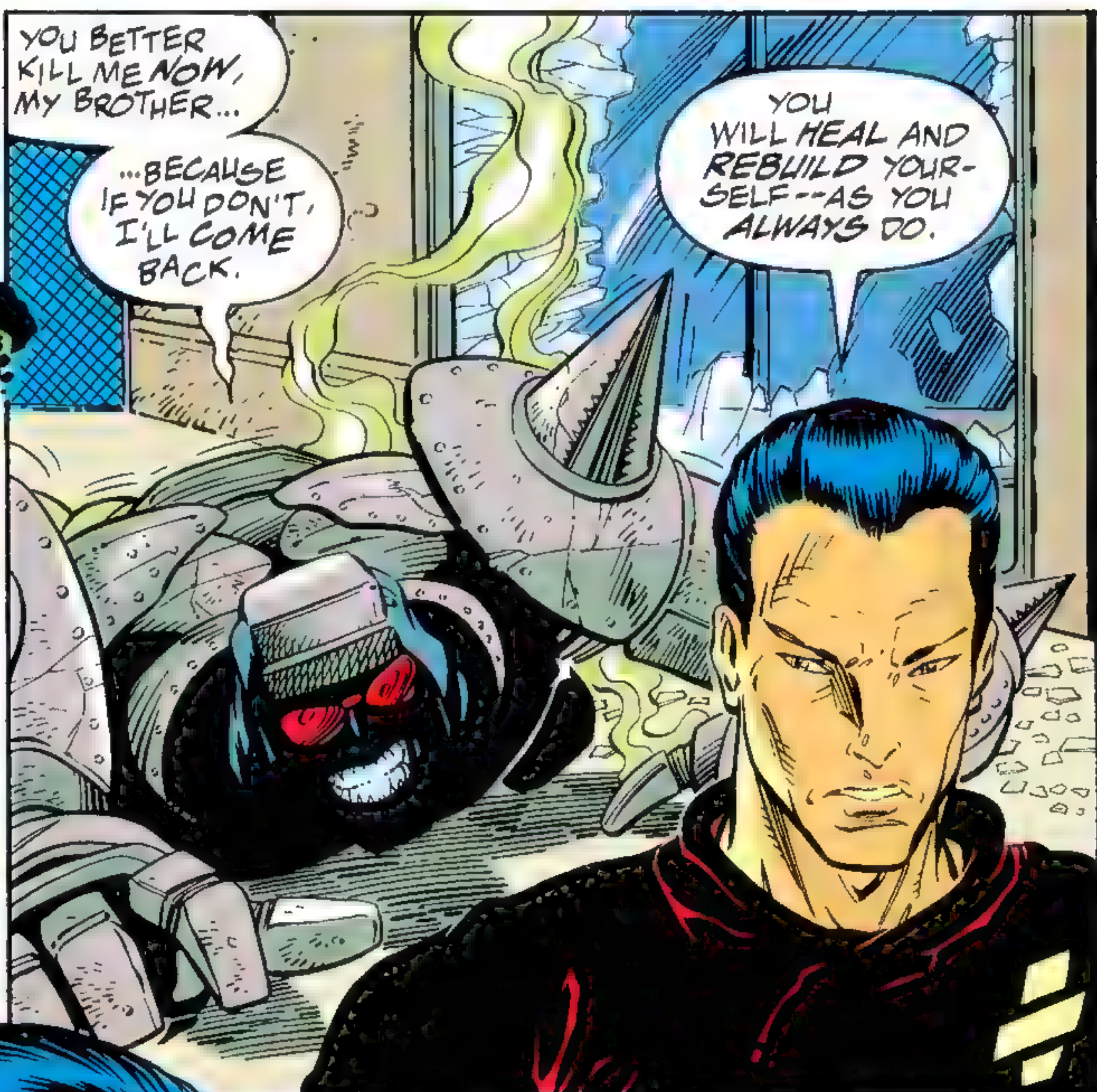




YOU BETTER  
KILL ME NOW,  
MY BROTHER...

...BECAUSE  
IF YOU DON'T,  
I'LL COME  
BACK.

YOU  
WILL HEAL AND  
REBUILD YOUR-  
SELF--AS YOU  
ALWAYS DO.



AND WHEN YOU  
RECONSTRUCT YOUR  
SOUL AS WELL, YOU  
WILL RETURN--

--AS A  
FRIEND AND  
ALLY.



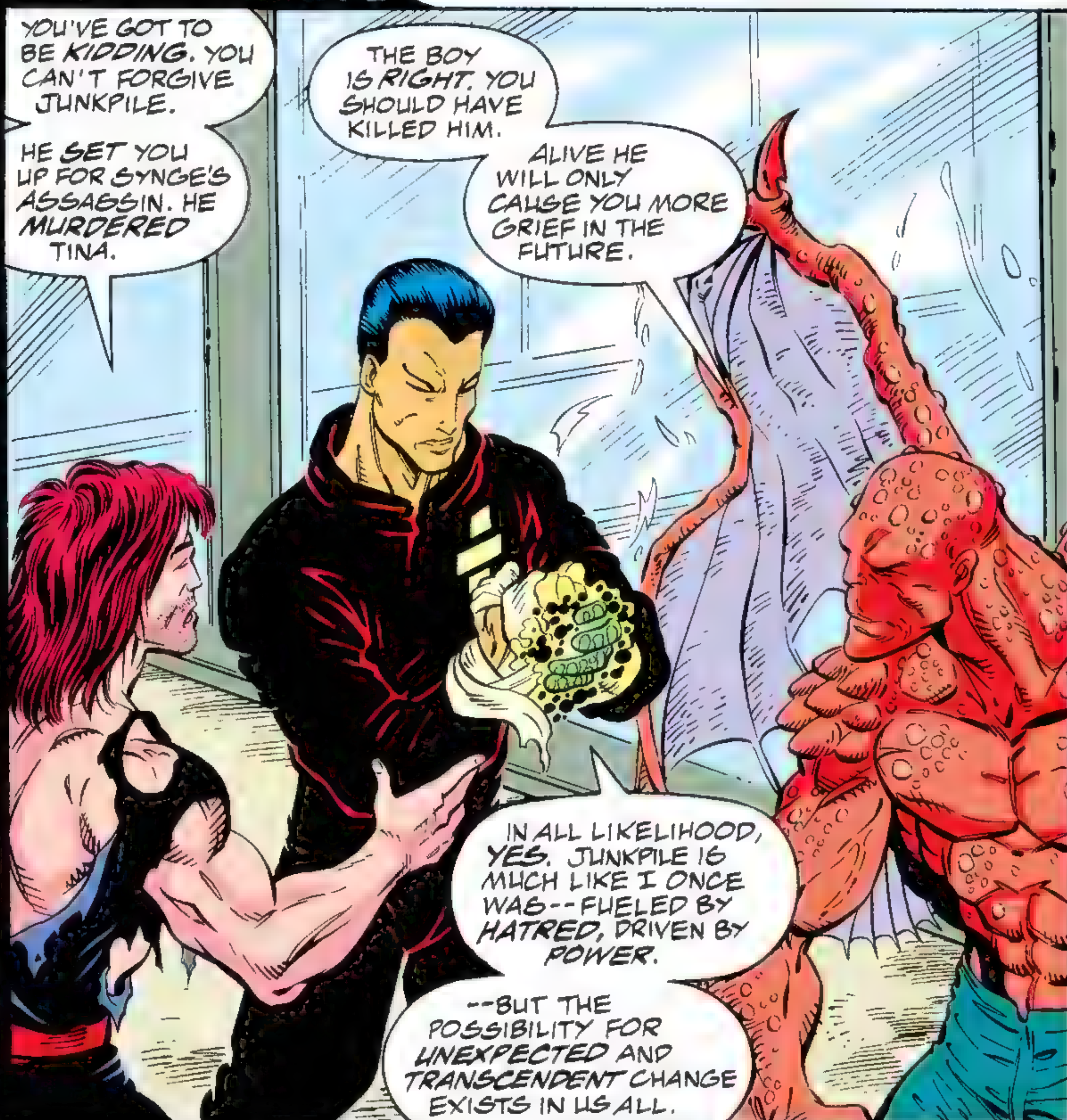
NEVER...  
UNNGHGH...

YOU'VE GOT TO  
BE KIDDING. YOU  
CAN'T FORGIVE  
JUNKPILE.

HE SET YOU  
UP FOR SYNGE'S  
ASSASSIN. HE  
MURDERED  
TINA.

THE BOY  
IS RIGHT. YOU  
SHOULD HAVE  
KILLED HIM.

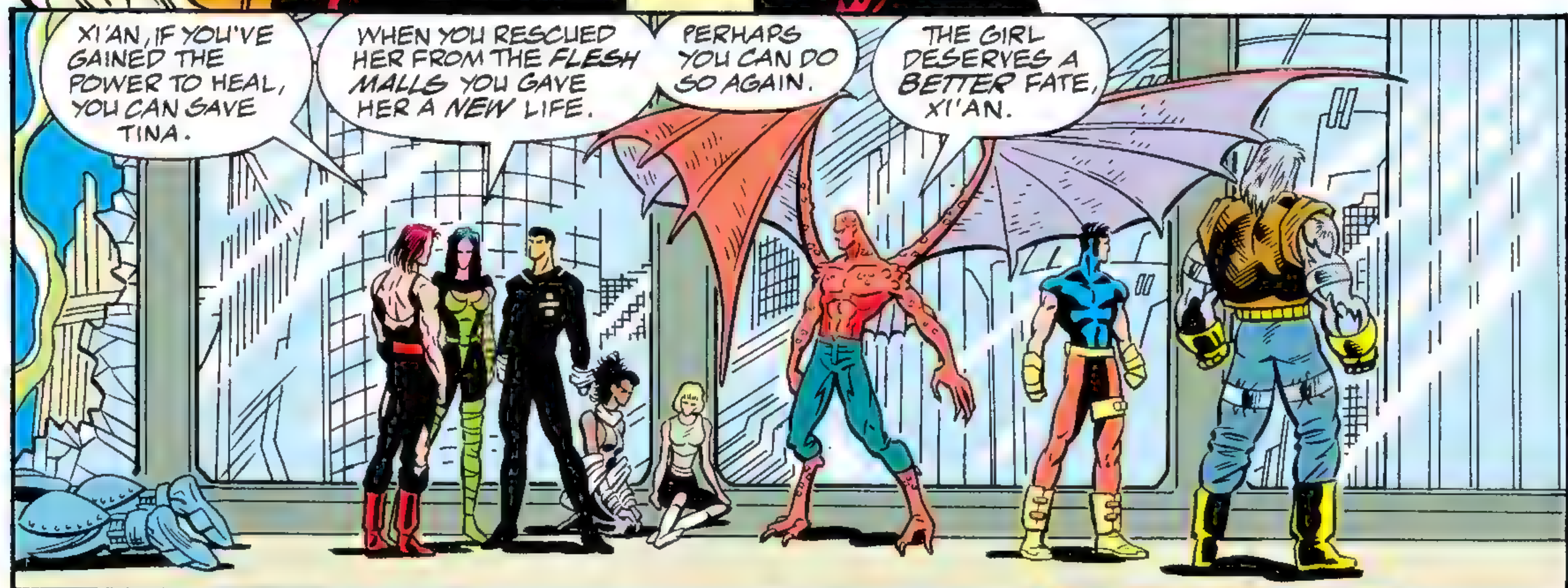
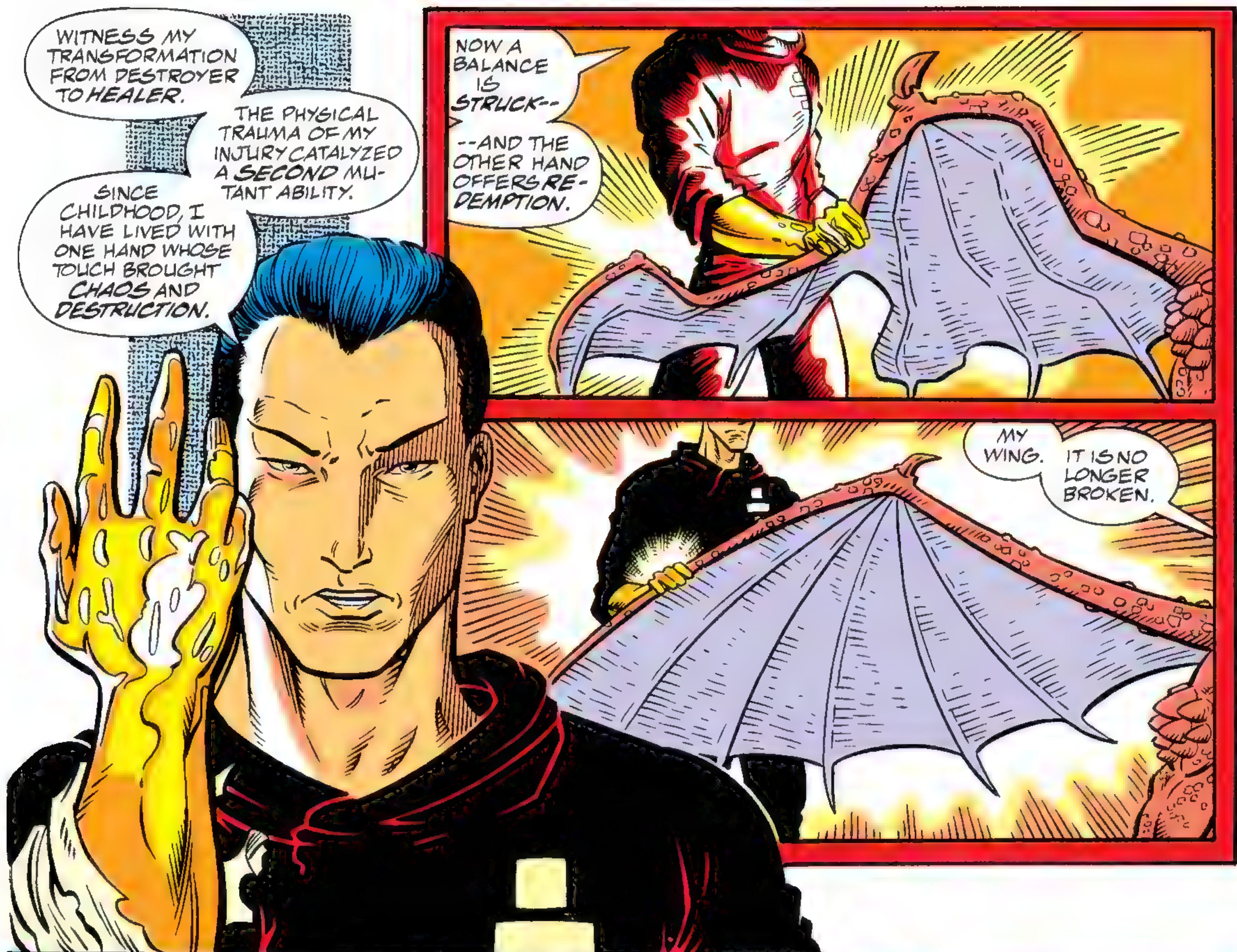
ALIVE HE  
WILL ONLY  
CAUSE YOU MORE  
GRIEF IN THE  
FUTURE.



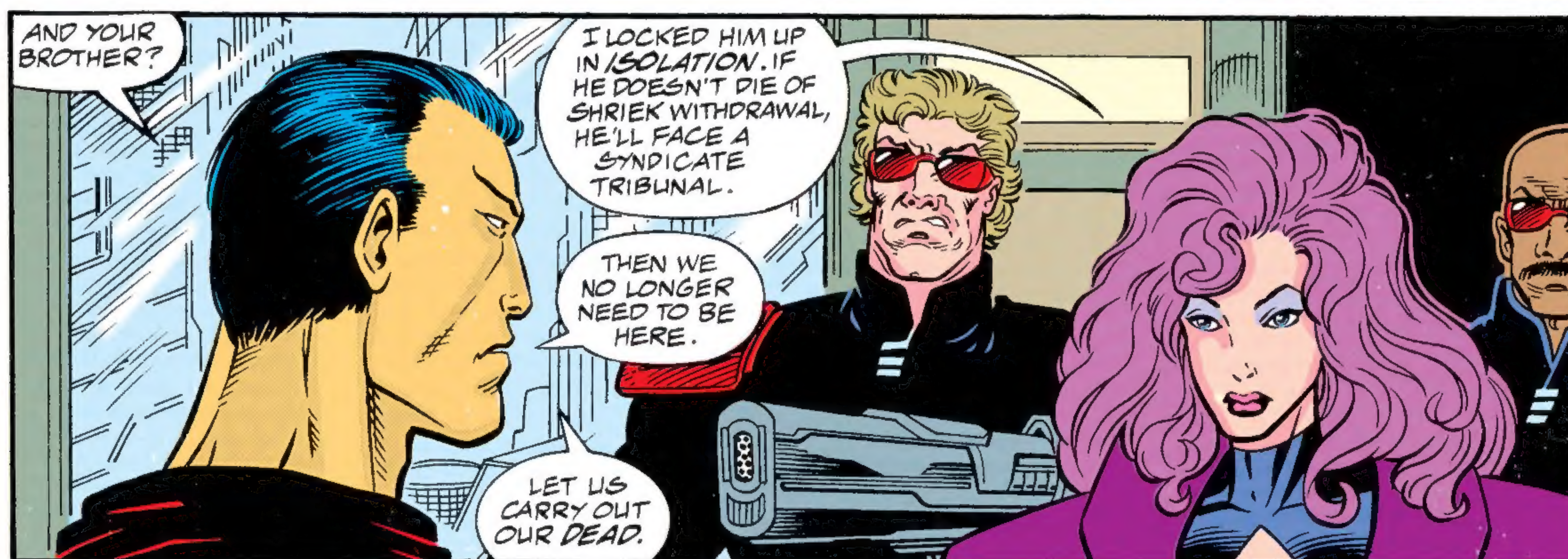
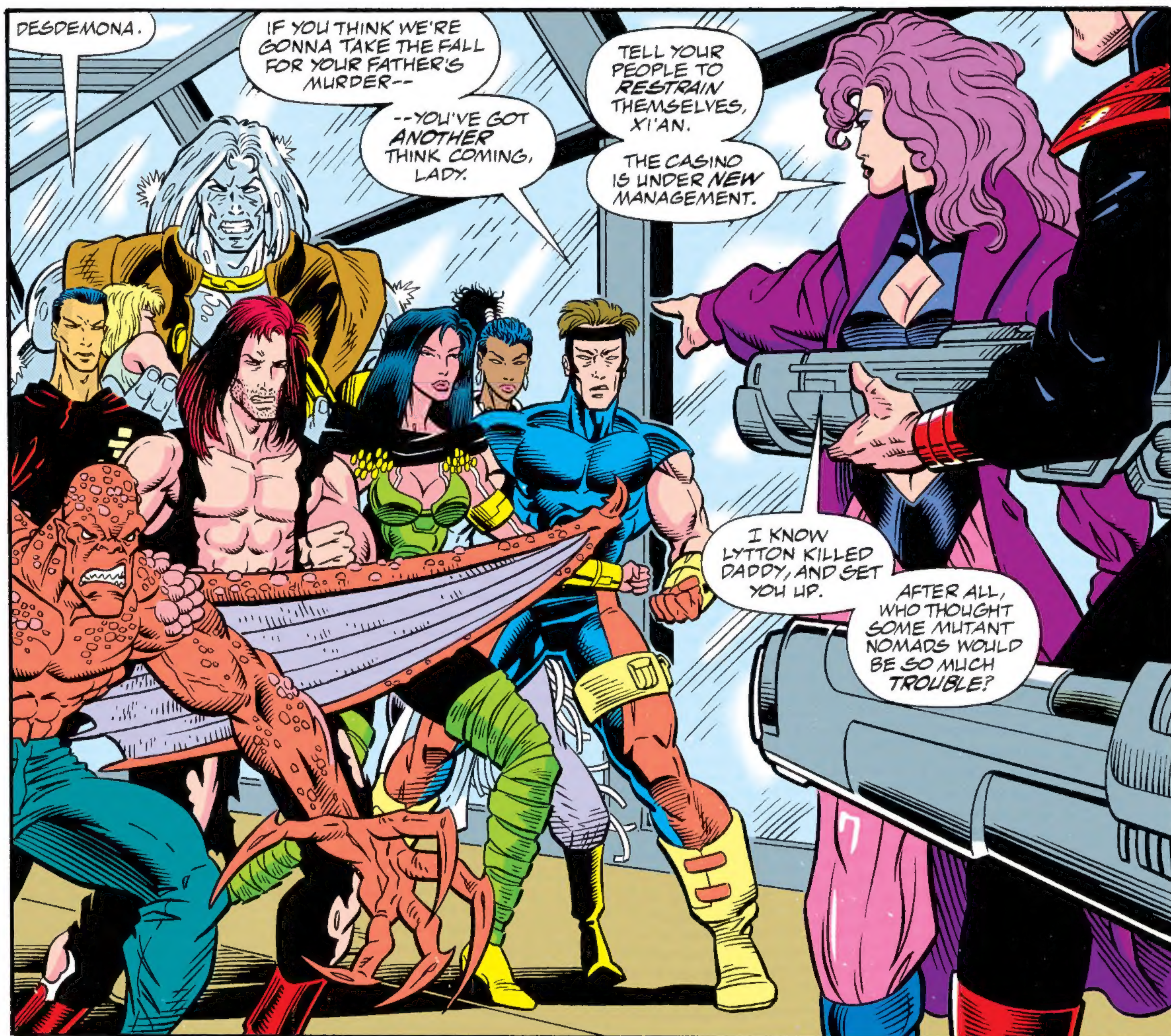
IN ALL LIKELIHOOD,  
YES, JUNKPILE IS  
MUCH LIKE I ONCE  
WAS--FUELED BY  
HATRED, DRIVEN BY  
POWER.

--BUT THE  
POSSIBILITY FOR  
UNEXPECTED AND  
TRANSCENDENT CHANGE  
EXISTS IN US ALL.

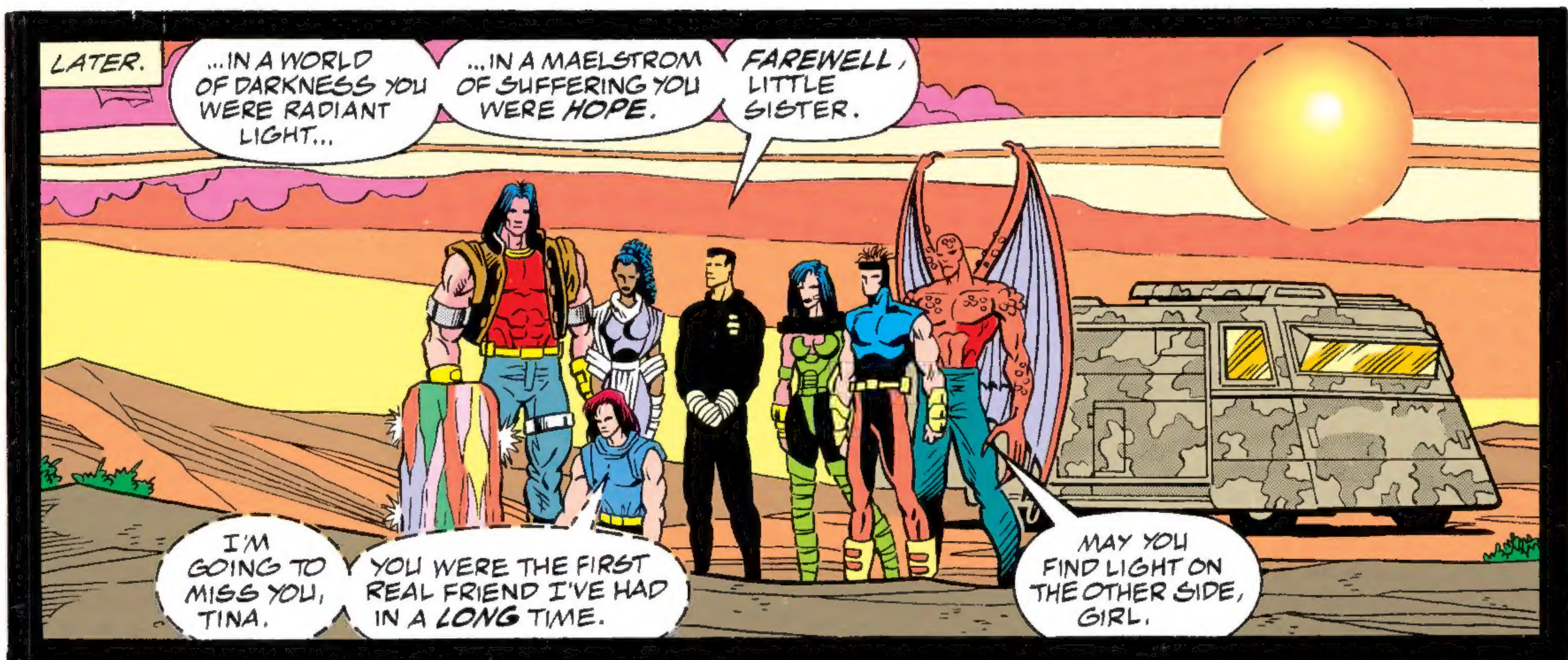












LATER.

...IN A WORLD OF DARKNESS YOU WERE RADIANT LIGHT...

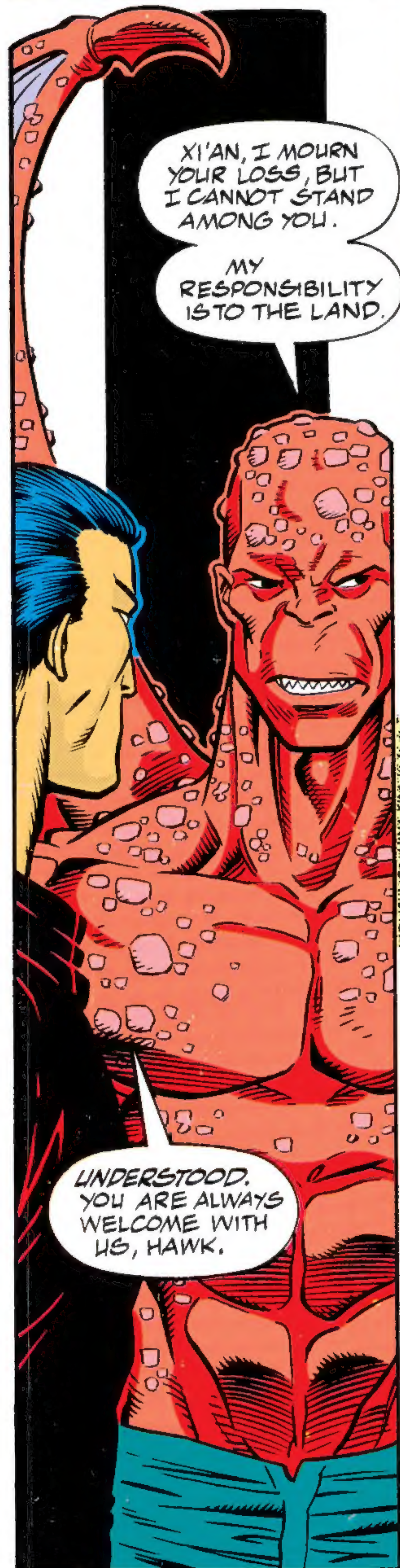
...IN A MAELSTROM OF SUFFERING YOU WERE HOPE.

FAREWELL, LITTLE SISTER.

I'M GOING TO MISS YOU, TINA.

YOU WERE THE FIRST REAL FRIEND I'VE HAD IN A LONG TIME.

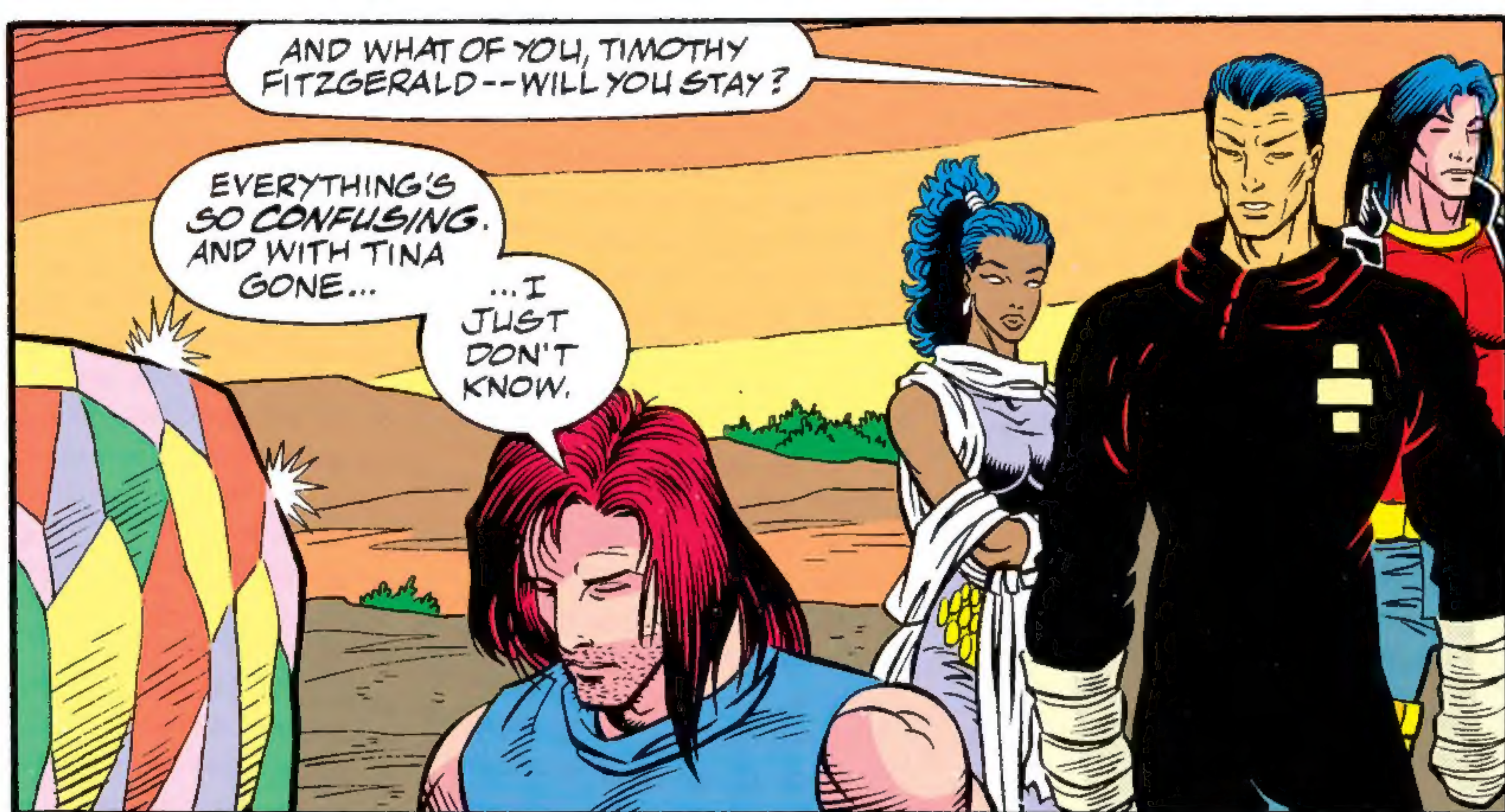
MAY YOU FIND LIGHT ON THE OTHER SIDE, GIRL.



XI'AN, I MOURN YOUR LOSS, BUT I CANNOT STAND AMONG YOU.

MY RESPONSIBILITY IS TO THE LAND.

UNDERSTOOD. YOU ARE ALWAYS WELCOME WITH US, HAWK.



AND WHAT OF YOU, TIMOTHY FITZGERALD--WILL YOU STAY?

EVERYTHING'S SO CONFUSING. AND WITH TINA GONE...

...I JUST DON'T KNOW.



THE ORIGINAL X-MEN WEATHERED MUCH WORSE THAN WE HAVE SEEN HERE.

THEIR COMMITMENT TO ONE ANOTHER WAS THEIR STRENGTH IN THE MIDST OF ADVERSITY.

THAT IS WHY I CHOSE TO REVIVE THEIR NAME AND CAUSE.



TINA TRUSTED YOU, BELIEVED IN YOUR DREAM.

I GUESS I CAN DO THE SAME.

I'LL STAY.





I OFFER NO ASSURANCES THAT TINA WILL BE THE ONLY ONE OF US TO FALL.

TOGETHER WE BEGIN THE FIGHT TO CLAIM OUR HERITAGE AND CREATE OUR FUTURE.

WE ARE **X-MEN**

--AND WE WILL SET THIS WORLD ON FIRE.



ELSEWHERE.

AAAAAAA

OH MY CHILDREN,  
HOW ENTRANCING IS  
YOUR SONATA OF  
SUFFERING.

AS YOU WRITHE  
IN AGONY, BE  
HEARTENED THAT  
YOUR PAIN SERVES  
A HIGHER  
CAUSE--

--THAT  
OF ART.

INCOMING  
MESSAGE.

AAAAAAA

PROJECT.  
FULL SIZE.

BRIMSTONE  
LOVE.

TO WHAT DO I  
OWE THE HONOR  
OF THE THEATER'S  
MOST  
DISTINGUISHED  
MEMBER?

SARCASM  
IS A  
DANGEROUS  
WEAPON TO  
WIELD,  
THIRTEEN.

MY  
APOLOGIES.

AN INTRIGUING MUTANT  
PHENOMENON HAS EMERGED  
IN YOUR DISTRICT.

I SUGGEST YOU  
INVESTIGATE AND  
EXPLORE WHAT NEW  
ENTERTAINMENT IT  
MAY OFFER THE  
THEATER.

AS YOU  
WISH.

LUNA, COME,  
COME. A NEW  
GAME  
BEGINS.

GRRRRRR



NEXT: THE  
DARKROOM.